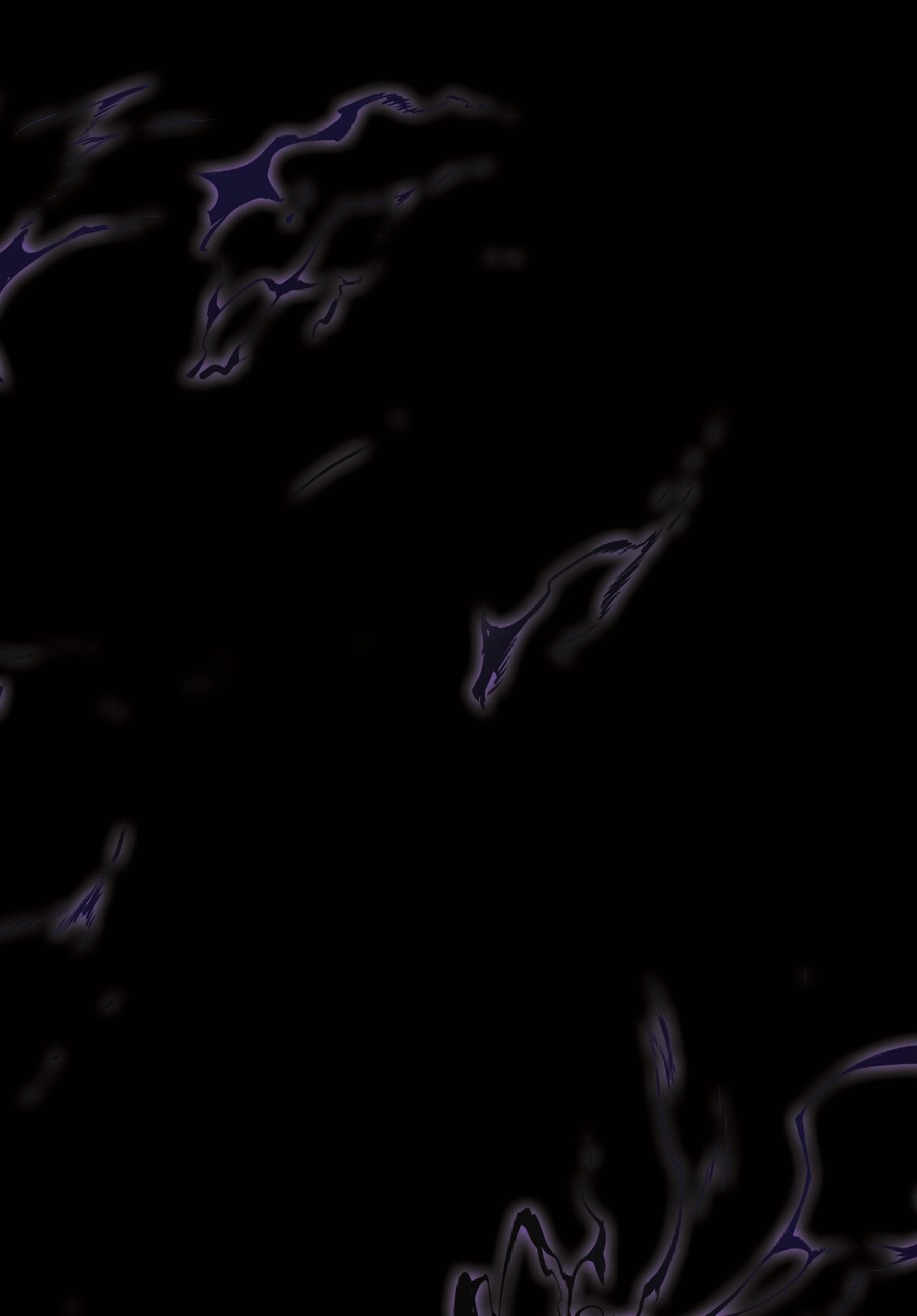
8
DUBU
(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Story by
CHUGONG
Adapted by
h-goon
Solo
Leveling



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CHARACTERS

Jinwoo Sung

S-rank Hunter,
Ahjin Guild

Jinah Sung

Jinwoo Sung's younger sister,
high school student

Jinho Yoo

D-rank Hunter,
Ahjin Guild

Haein Cha

S-rank Hunter,
Hunters Guild

Jongsu Park

A-rank Hunter,
Knights Guild

Suhyun Yoo

A-rank Hunter,
Jinho Yoo's cousin

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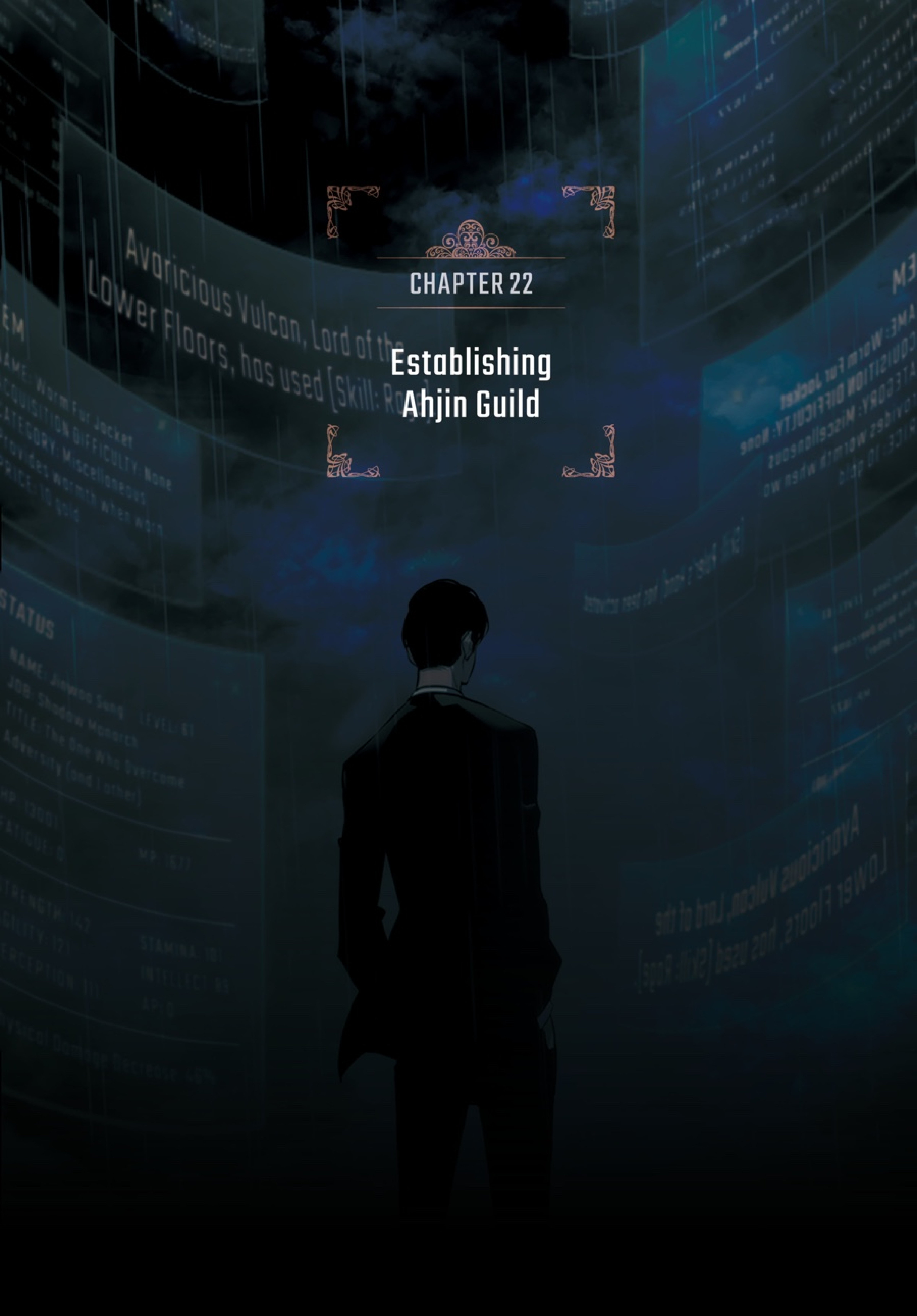
Solo Leveling

CHAPTER 22

Establishing Ahjin Guild



Solo
Leveling

BRYCE CANYON, U.S.A.
HFF!
HFF!
<Wh-who are yo——>
WRONG AGAIN...
QUITE SNEAKY.
FRAGMENTS OF LUMINOSITY...
?

YOGMUNT, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
I COME WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE EASTERN LAND.
THE SMALL EASTERN LAND WHERE THE SHADOW MONARCH IS?
ISN'T THAT IN YOUR CHARGE?
IT APPEARS THE RULERS WILL RELEASE REGIA IN THE LAND A LITTLE FURTHER SOUTH OF IT.
I SHALL TAKE CHARGE OF THAT PLACE.

FLEE
WHAT ABOUT THE SHADOW MONARCH...?
IF THE ARCHITECT FULFILLS THE CONTRACT, ALL WILL BE FINE.
I HAVE SOME MORE INTERESTING NEWS.
WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE BRIGHTEST FRAGMENT OF LUMINOSITY IS THERE.
HEH-HEH... INTERESTING, INDEED.
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO TELL ME THIS.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
IF YOU INTEND TO GIVE HIM UP, I WILL GLADLY TAKE HIM.

IT SEEMS WE'VE BEEN LURED HERE, BY THE BY...
THIS ONE CERTAINLY DOES NOT POSSESS THE POWER OF FRAGMENTS.
TMP
TMP
I WONDERED WHY HE LEFT A TRAIL...
YOU'RE INTERRUPTING OUR BUSINESS AGAIN.

THIS SMALL EASTERN LAND—
YOU MEAN KOREA?

AND IF SO?
FROST MONARCH, NO TIME TO TOY WITH THIS BASTARD.

CATCH US IF YOU CAN.
ZZZT

I...
WHP
WHP
...WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY THAT EASILY!
SHWF

KKAKOOM

IS IT YOU?
THE BASTARD HUNTING OUR KIND?
I MUST SAY, YOU AMAZE ME.
NOT ONLY DID YOU VENTURE INTO ENEMY TERRITORY SOLO...
...BUT YOU CAN ALSO SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE.
STILL, THIS IS THE END FOR YOU.

BRETHREN! CONCEAL YOURSELVES NO LONGER! STEP FORTH AND SHOW YOURSELVES NOW!
FSHH
FSHH
......

DID YOU SAY "SOLO"?

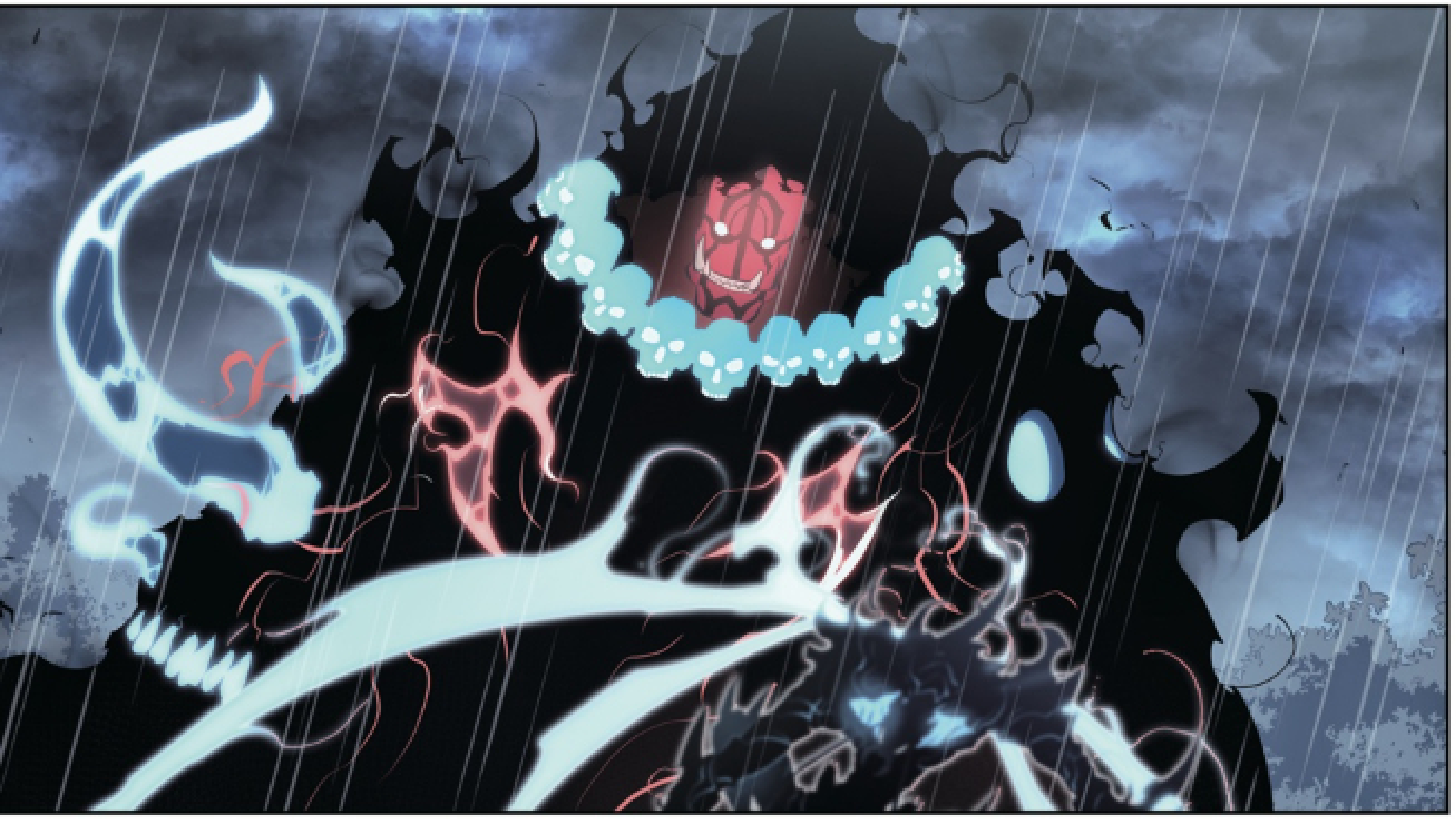
THAT'S FUNNY.

COME OUT.
VMM
DROP

WHO'S HIDING NOW?

WH-WHAT HAP—
WHACK
THUD
ROLL

SWSHHHH



H-HOW DARE YOU...?

BEGIN.

SHP

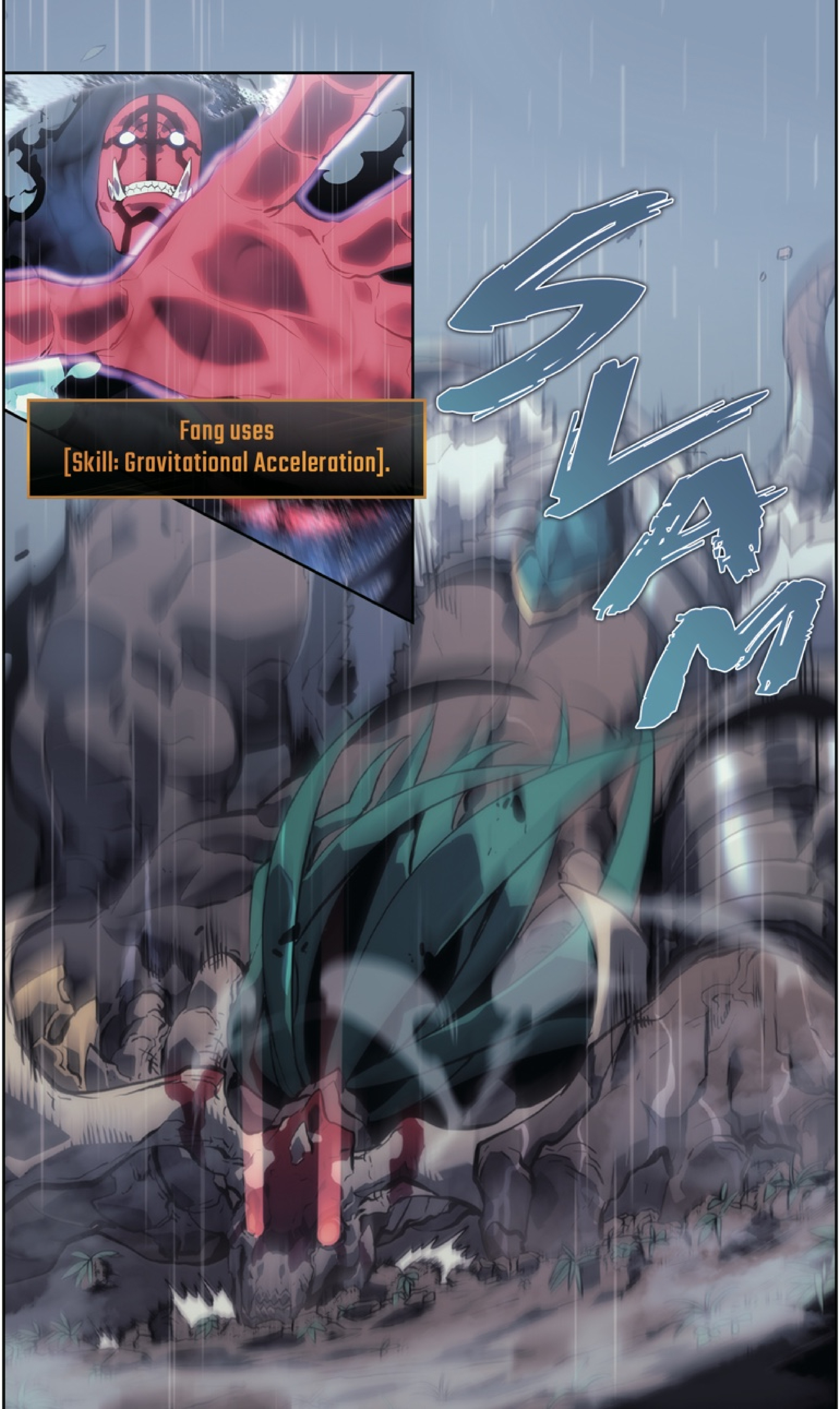
FWSH

URAH!

WHOOOOSH
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
LEAP

CRASH
PLAYTIME IS OVER, YOU BASTARDS!

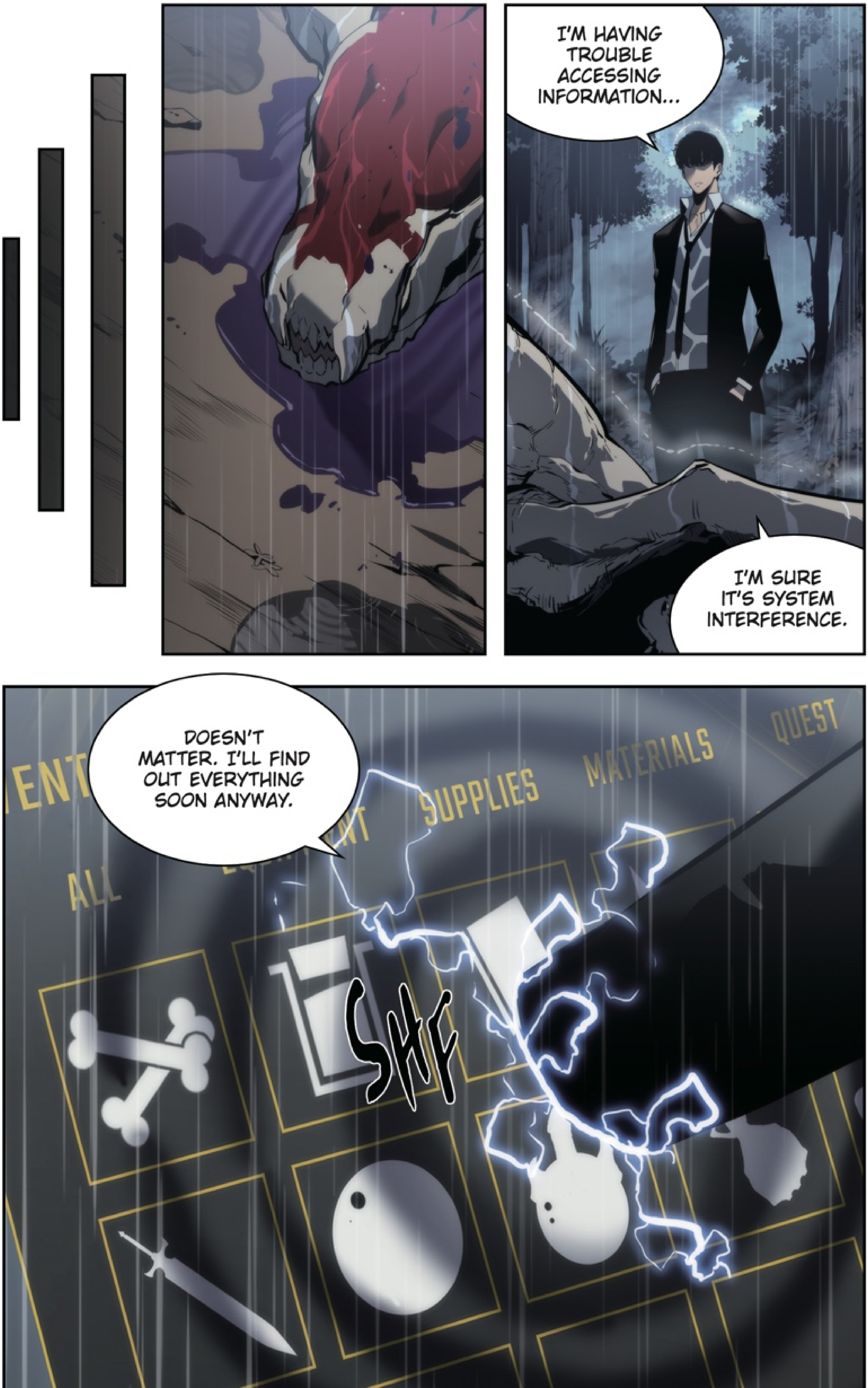
SHK
SLASH
THUD
Fang uses [Skill: Song of Giants].


Fang uses
[Skill: Gravitational Acceleration].
SLAM

SPLISH

ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.

ANSWER ME PROPERLY, AND YOU'LL SUFFER LESS.

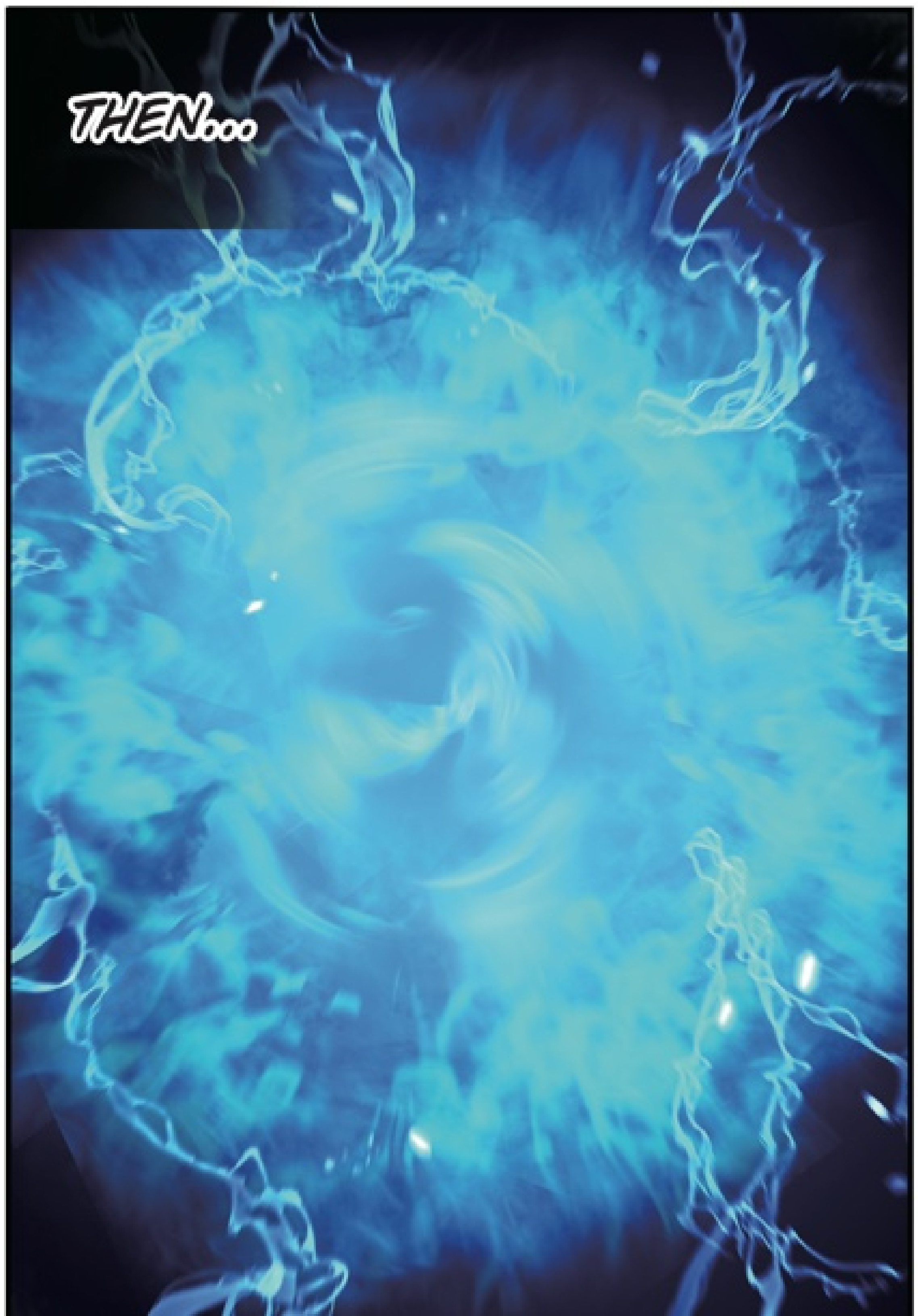

I'M HAVING TROUBLE ACCESSING INFORMATION...
I'M SURE IT'S SYSTEM INTERFERENCE.
DOESN'T MATTER. I'LL FIND OUT EVERYTHING SOON ANYWAY.
QUEST
MATERIALS
SUPPLIES
ALL
SHF

THE KEY FROM THE CURSED RANDOM BOX.
You have leveled up!
The required conditions have been fulfilled.
REQUIRED CONDITIONS WERE FULFILLED WHEN I REACHED LEVEL 100 DURING THE JEJU ISLAND RAID.
Part of the key's information is revealed.
ITEM
[ITEM: Cartenon Temple's Key]
ACQUISITION DIFFICULTY: ??
CATEGORY: Key
This key unlocks the entrance to the Cartenon Temple. You can use it at the designated gate. The location of the designated gate will be revealed after the allotted time passes.
Remaining time: 417:06:52

CARTENON TEMPLE'S KEY...
I'LL NEVER FORGET CARTENON TEMPLE.
THE DOUBLE DUNGEON!
THE SYSTEM IS CALLING ME ONCE AGAIN...
Avaricious Vulcan, Lord of the Lower Floors, has used [Skill: Rage].
...TO THE PLACE WHERE IT ALL BEGAN.

I'M NOT THE SAME AS I ONCE WAS.

IF IT WAS ALL A SETUP...
...AND THEY'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ME THERE...


THEN...

...WAIT A BIT LONGER.

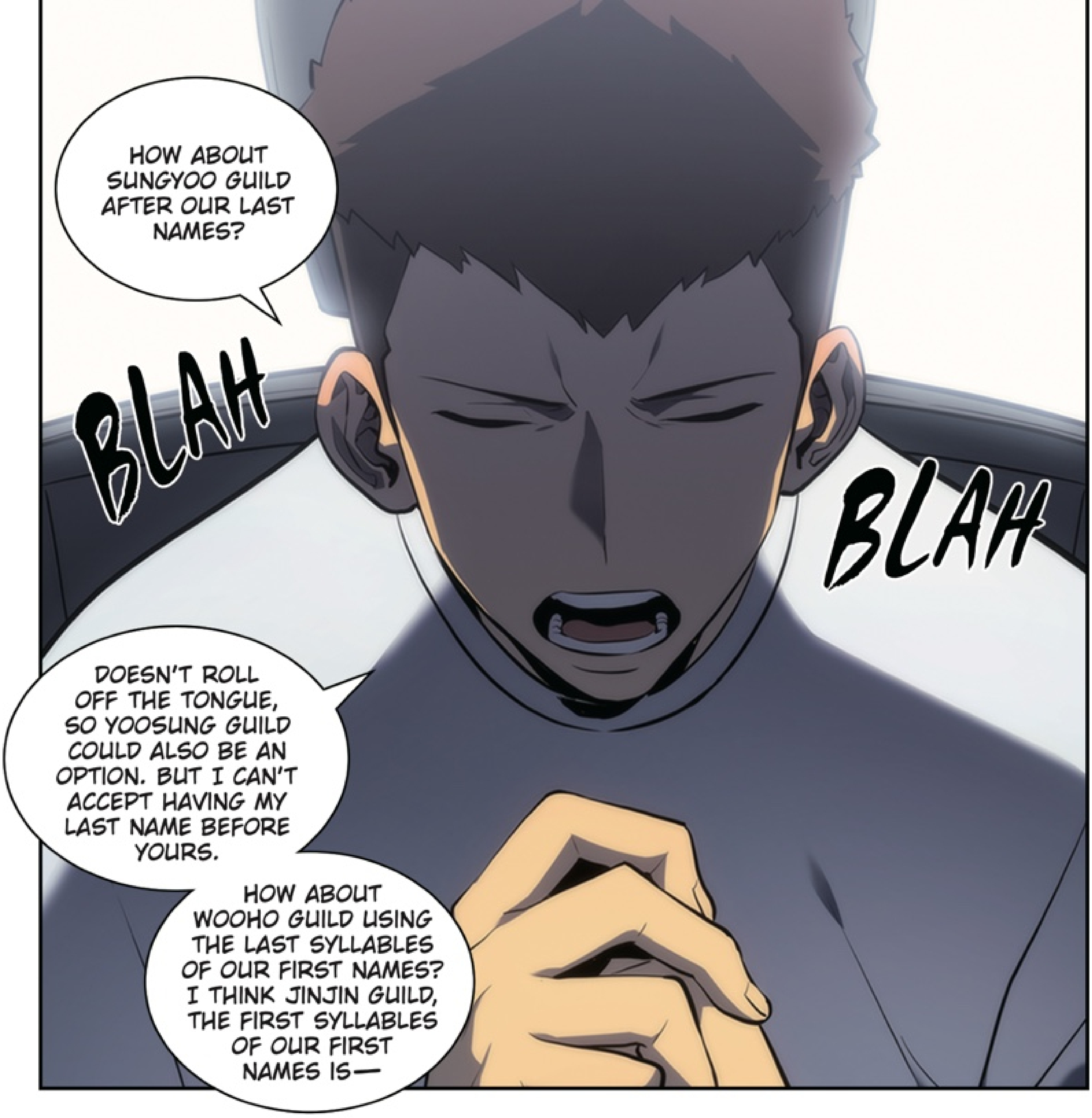
I'LL BE VISITING YOU SOON.

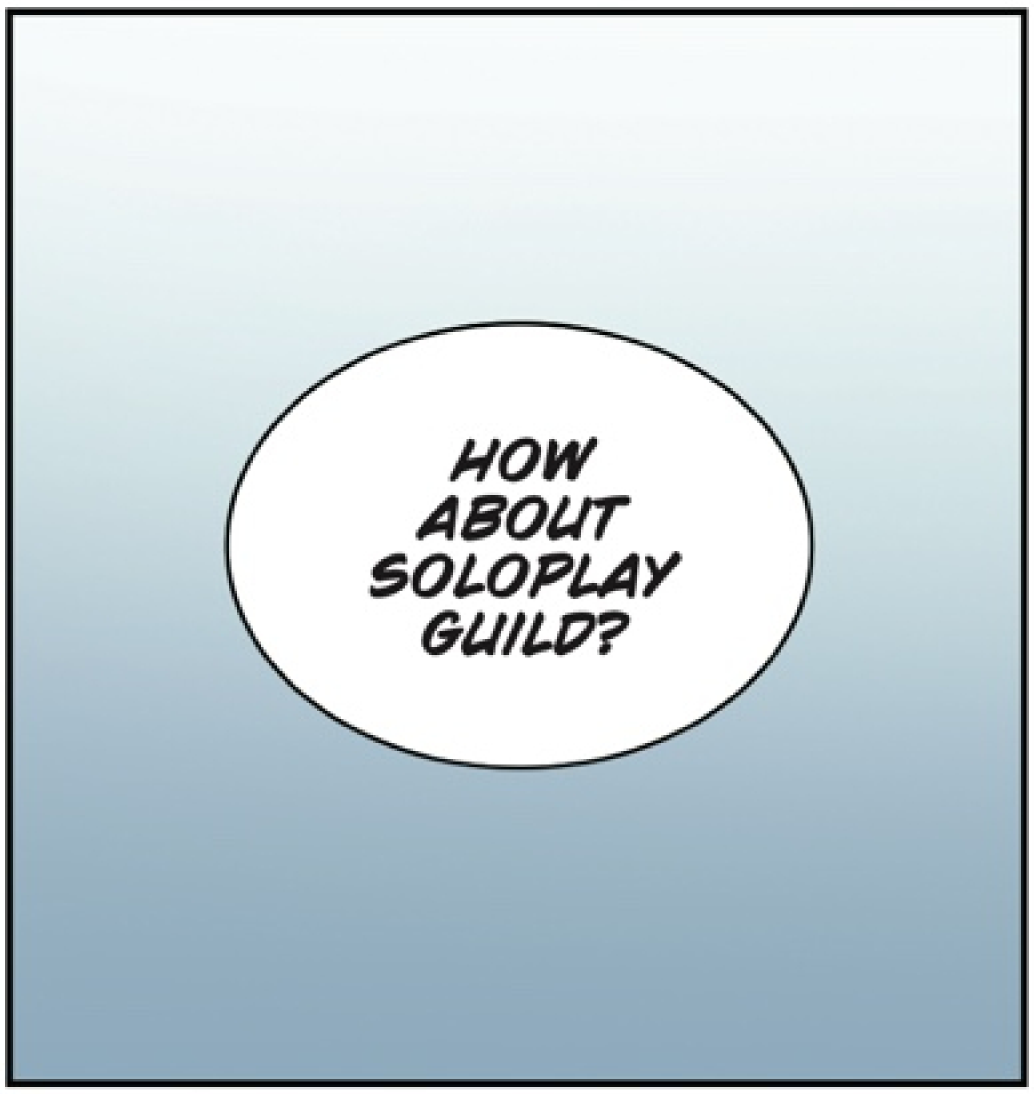
GoobGoob
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
THESE DAMN INTERNET TROLLS!
TAKA-TAKA-TAK
TAKA-TAK
NO MERCY FOR ANYONE WHO GOES UP AGAINST MY BOSS!
YOU WILL WEEP HELPLESSLY WHEN I SUE YOUR ASS!

Complaint
WHEW. ANOTHER CASE SETTLED.
I ROOTED OUT ONE MORE WEED OF MALICE WHO WAS BAD-MOUTHING THE BOSS.
YOU'RE WORKING HARD.
EEP!
B- BOSS!
HE APPEARS AS SUDDENLY AS HE DISAPPEARS.
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
YES, BOSS.
BUT WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE THAT?

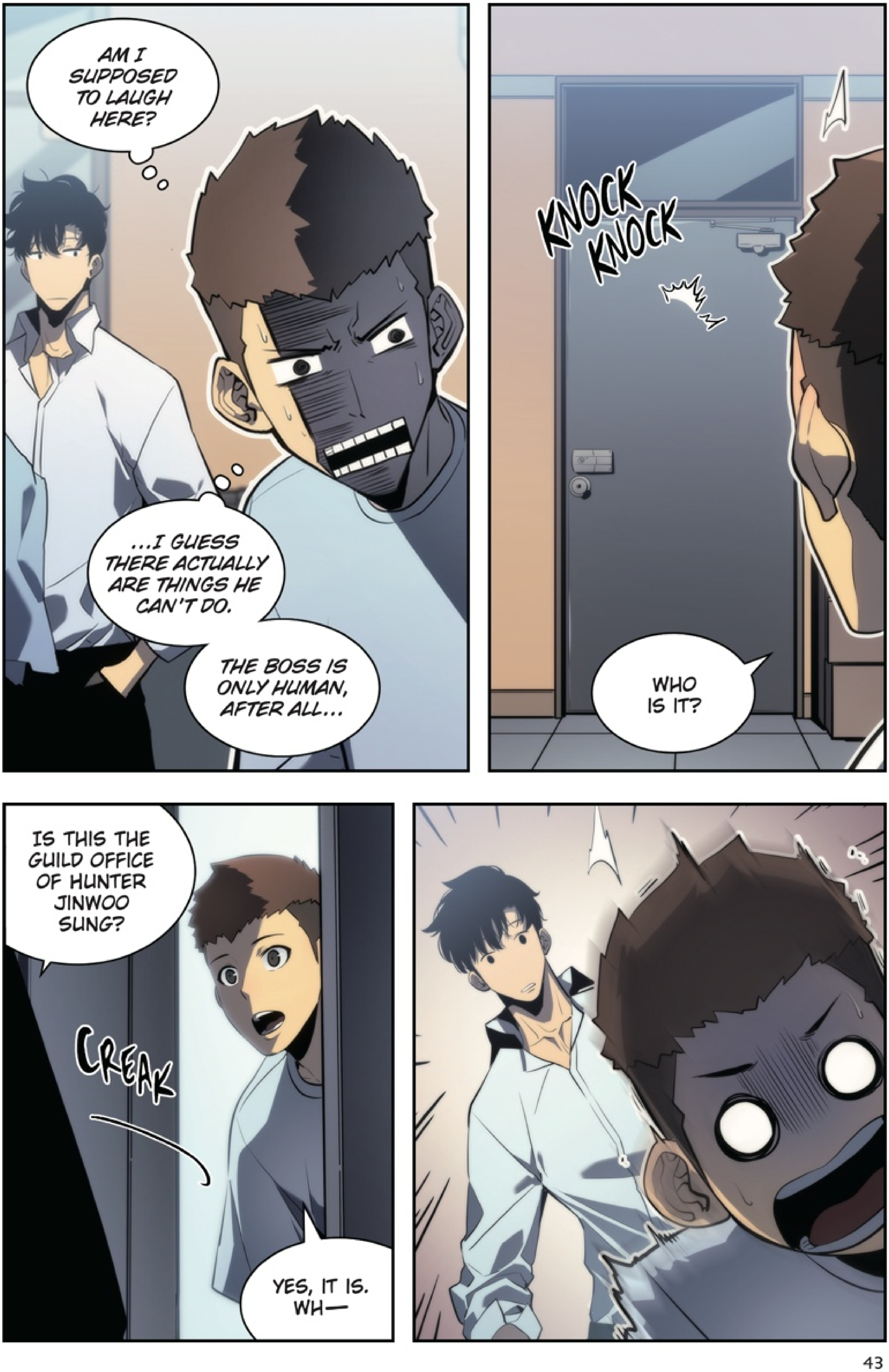
I JUST CAME FROM A GATE.
YOU SAID YOU NEEDED MONEY TO ESTABLISH A GUILD, RIGHT?
AREN'T THOSE HIGH-RANK ESSENCE STONES?!
DID YOU JUST COME FROM A HIGH-RANK GATE?
YOU'RE INCREDIBLE, BOSS!
I GUESS WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT PAYING OUR STAFF.
STAFF?
WE NEED ONE MORE FOUNDING MEMBER, REMEMBER?
RIGHT, YOU SAID WE NEEDED THREE GUILD MEMBERS—
PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND EMPLOYEE.
EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR HEAD COUNT, WE STILL NEED TO PICK A DILIGENT WORKER.
IT'S NOT LIKE THIS WILL BE A SHORT-TERM THING.
ANYWAY, ANYTHING ELSE GOING ON?
THERE IS ONE OTHER IMPORTANT MATTER WE NEED TO DEAL WITH URGENTLY.

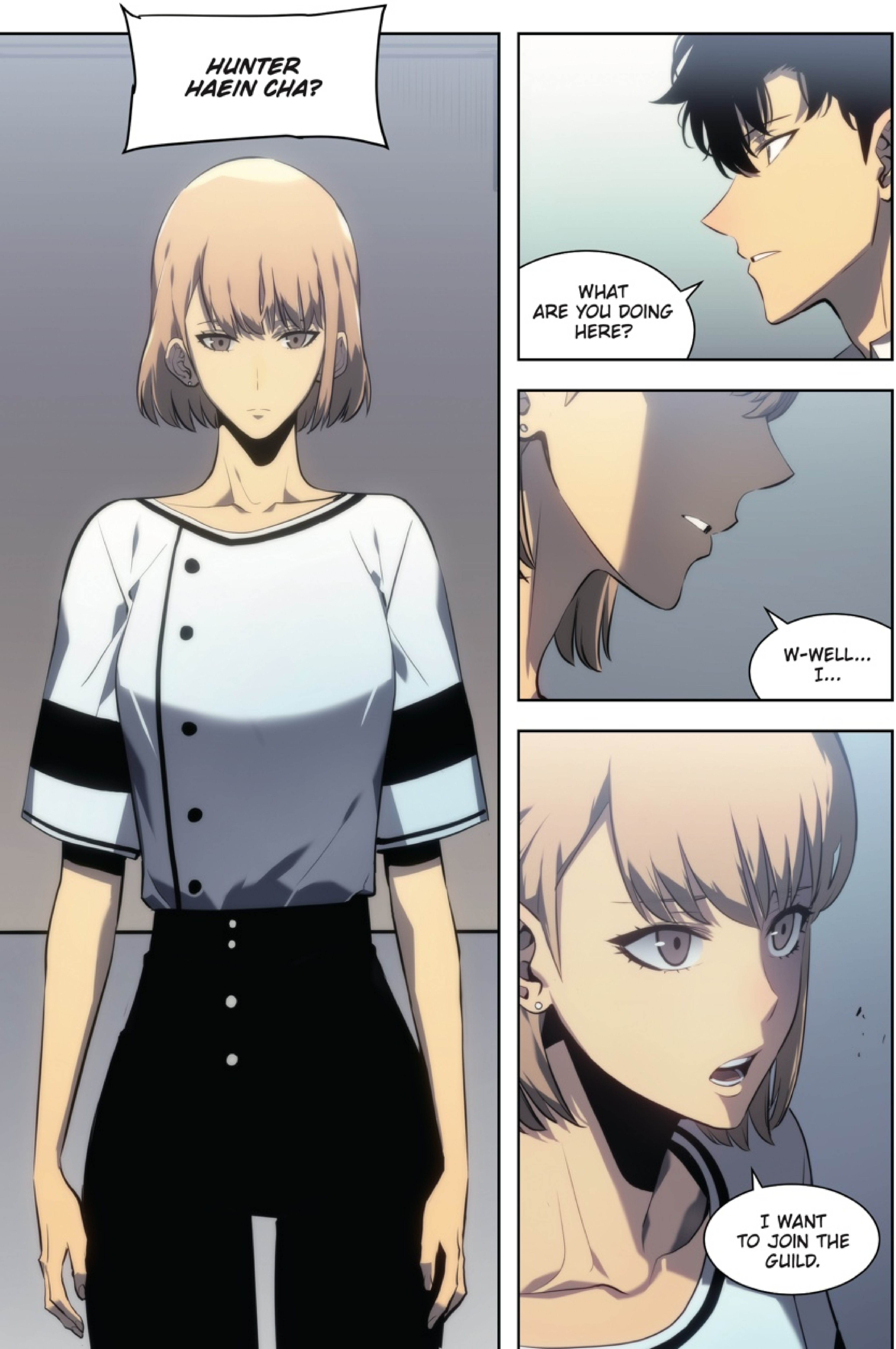
HUH?
?
HAVE YOU DECIDED ON A NAME FOR OUR GUILD?
OH...I THOUGHT IT WAS SOMETH—
IT'S SUPER, SUPER, SUPER IMPORTANT, BOSS!


HOW ABOUT SUNGYOO GUILD AFTER OUR LAST NAMES?
BLAH
BLAH
DOESN'T ROLL OFF THE TONGUE, SO YOOSUNG GUILD COULD ALSO BE AN OPTION. BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT HAVING MY LAST NAME BEFORE YOURS.
HOW ABOUT WOOHO GUILD USING THE LAST SYLLABLES OF OUR FIRST NAMES? I THINK JINJIN GUILD, THE FIRST SYLLABLES OF OUR FIRST NAMES IS—

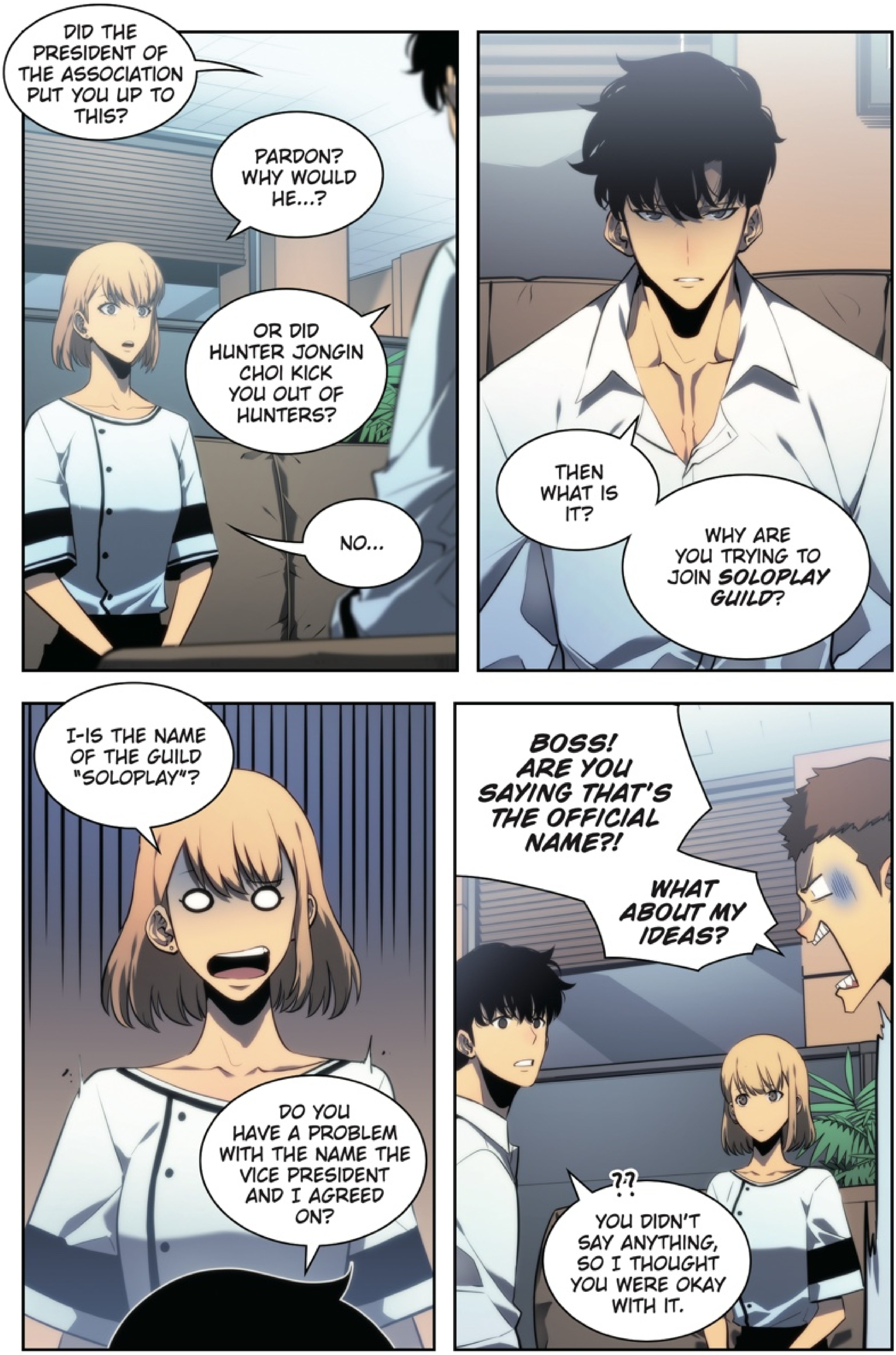

HOW ABOUT SOLOPLAY GUILD?

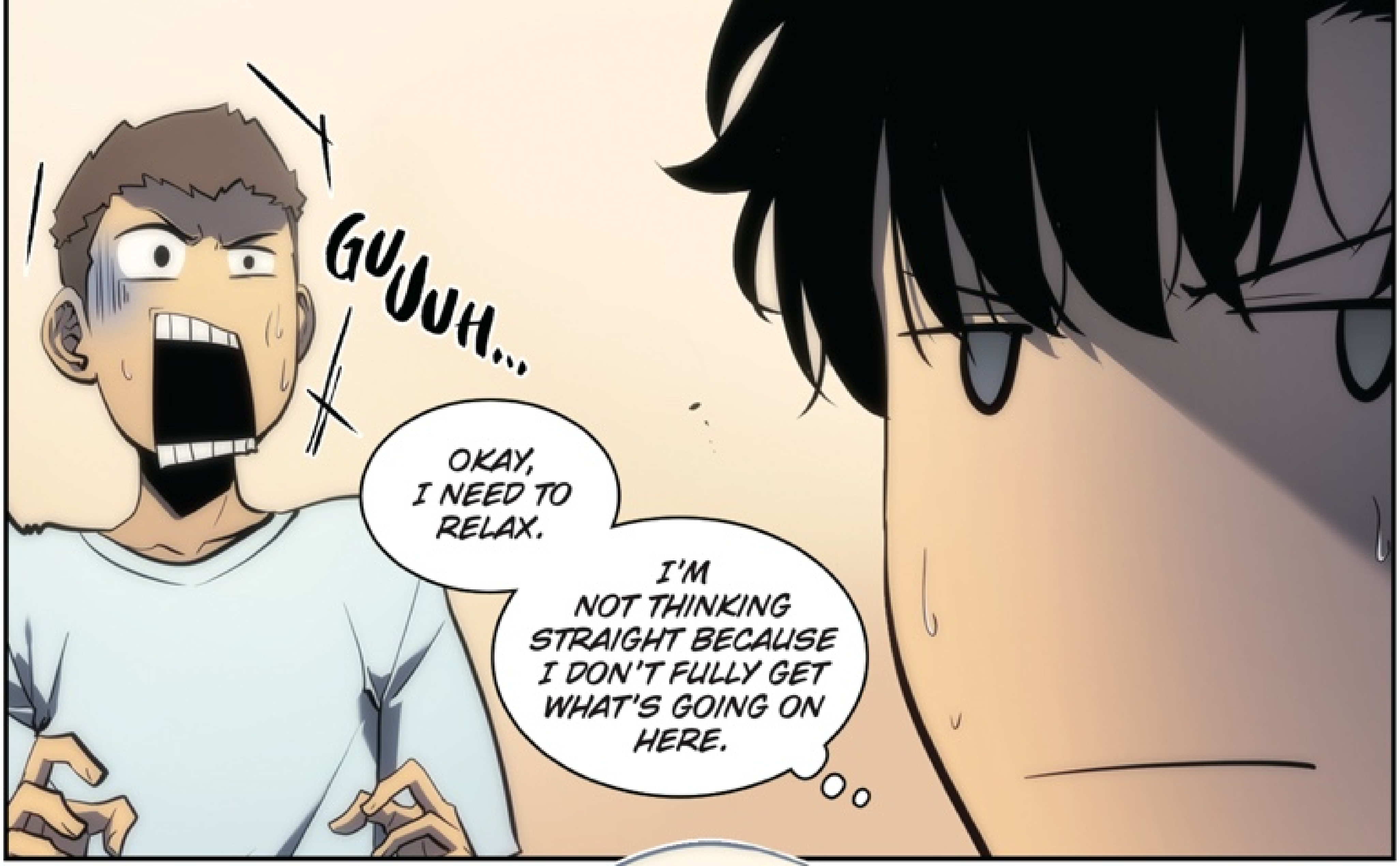
WHAT?
WE'RE DOING SOLO RAIDS, AFTER ALL.

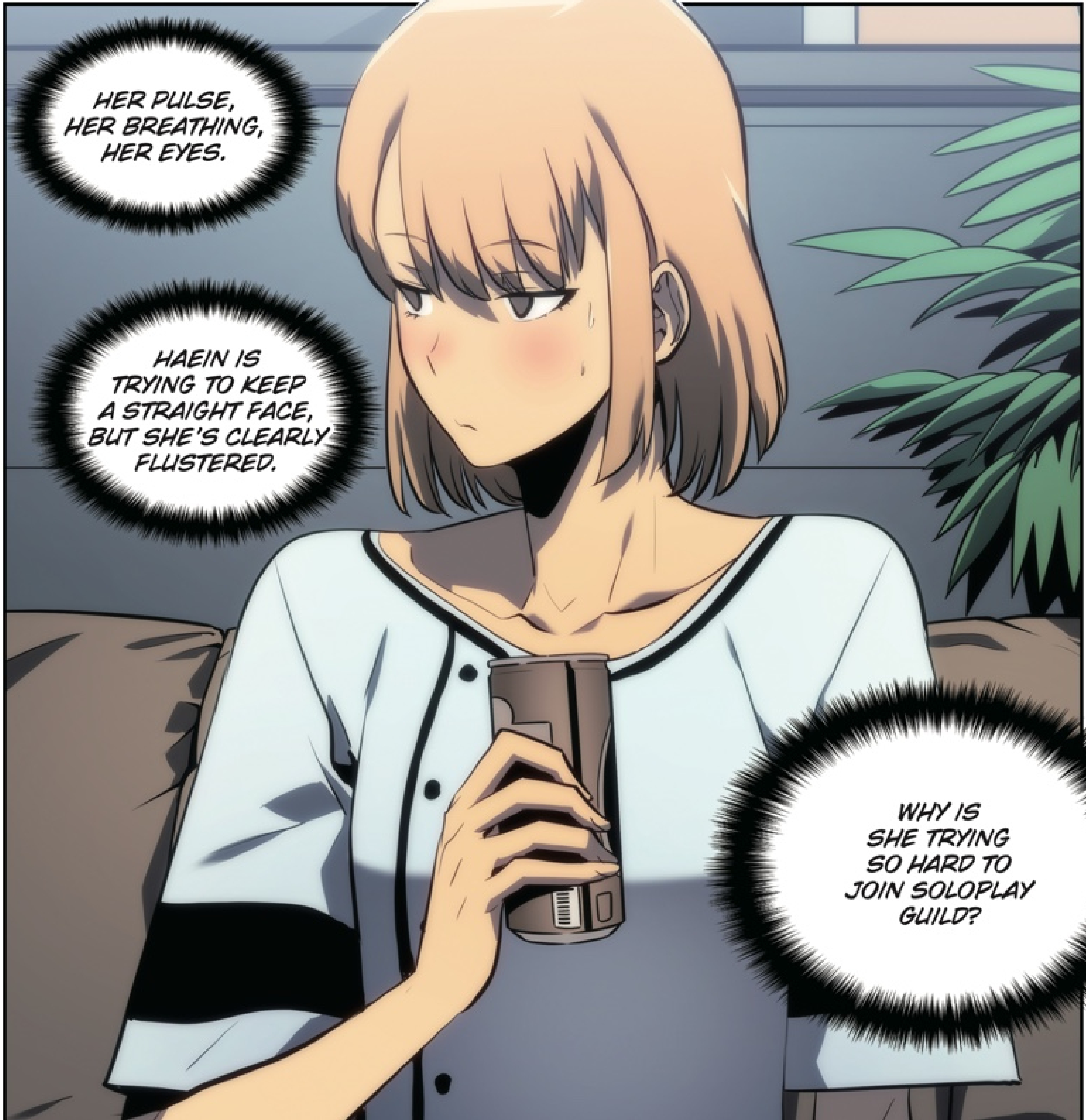

AM I SUPPOSED TO LAUGH HERE?
...I GUESS THERE ACTUALLY ARE THINGS HE CAN'T DO.
THE BOSS IS ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL...
KNOCK KNOCK
WHO IS IT?
IS THIS THE GUILD OFFICE OF HUNTER JINWOO SUNG?
CREAK
YES, IT IS. WH—


HUNTER HAEIN CHA?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
W-WELL... I...
I WANT TO JOIN THE GUILD.

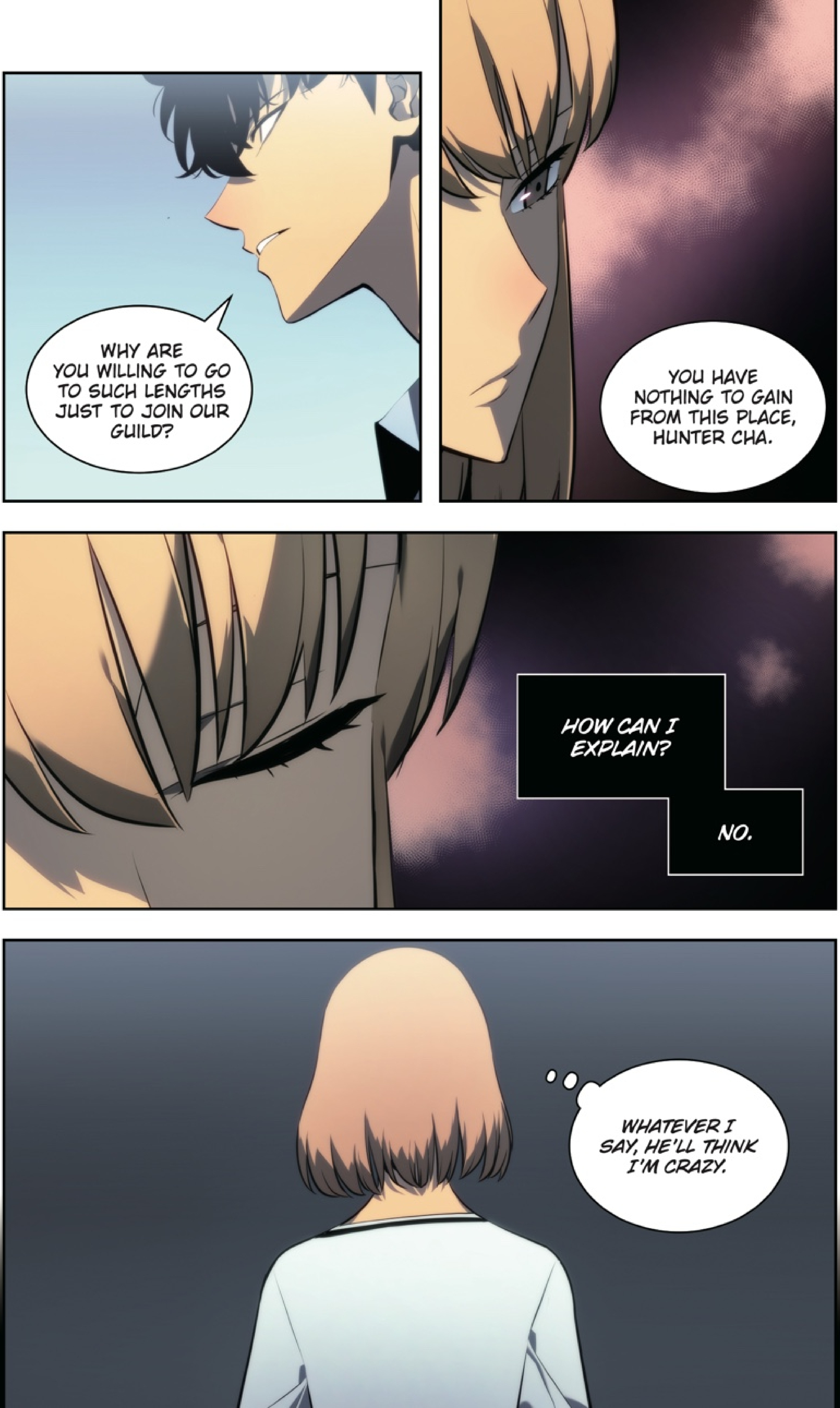
WHY ARE YOU HERE AGAIN?
I TOLD YOU.
SIP
I...
...WANT TO JOIN THE GUILD.
WHAT? WHAT IS THIS?

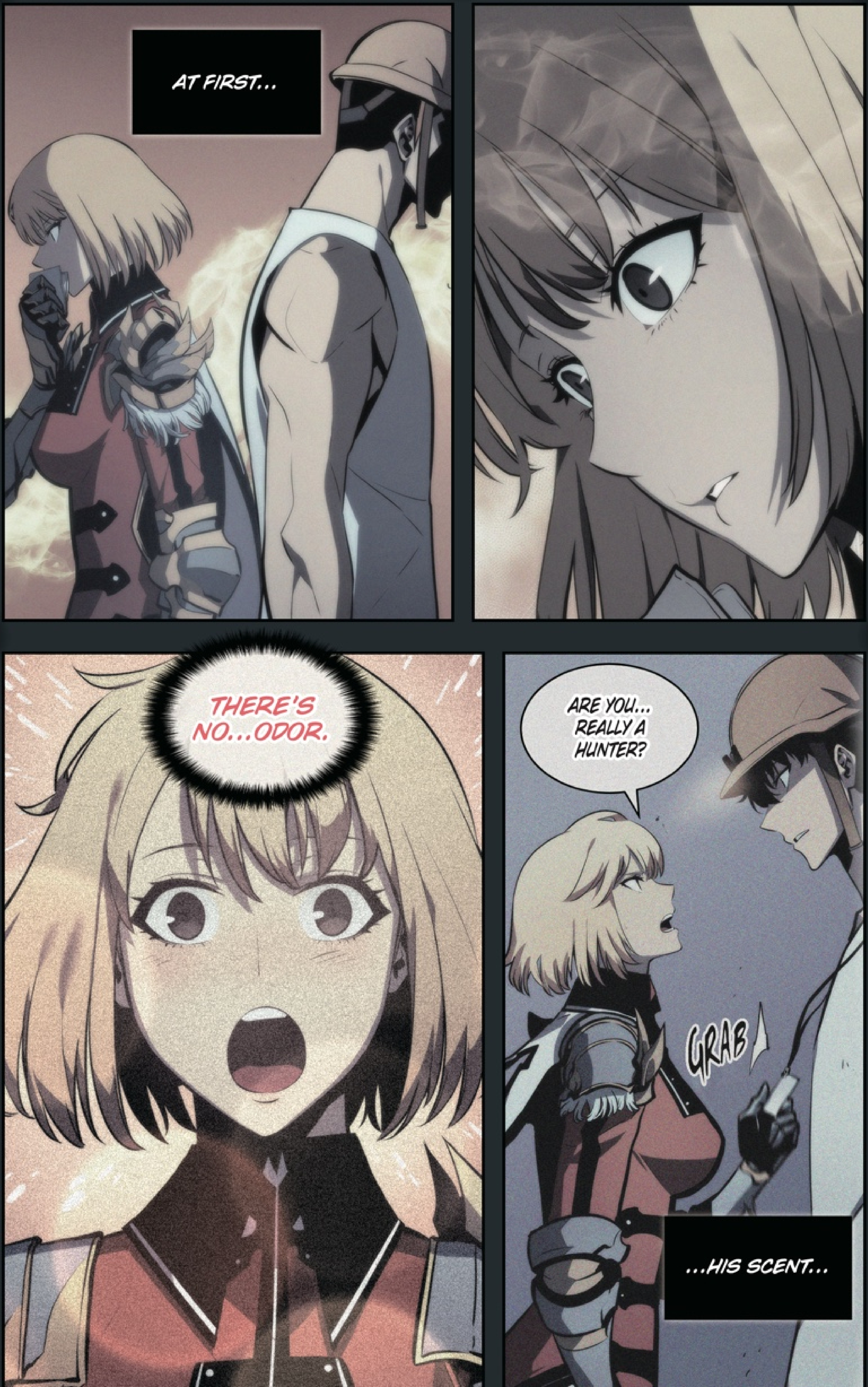

DID THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION PUT YOU UP TO THIS?
PARDON? WHY WOULD HE...?
OR DID HUNTER JONGIN CHOI KICK YOU OUT OF HUNTERS?
NO...
THEN WHAT IS IT?
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO JOIN SOLOPLAY GUILD?
I-IS THE NAME OF THE GUILD "SOLOPLAY"?
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE NAME THE VICE PRESIDENT AND I AGREED ON?
BOSS! ARE YOU SAYING THAT'S THE OFFICIAL NAME?!
WHAT ABOUT MY IDEAS?
??
YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, SO I THOUGHT YOU WERE OKAY WITH IT.


GUUUH...
OKAY, I NEED TO RELAX.
I'M NOT THINKING STRAIGHT BECAUSE I DON'T FULLY GET WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.


HER PULSE, HER BREATHING, HER EYES.
HAEIN IS TRYING TO KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE, BUT SHE'S CLEARLY FLUSTERED.
WHY IS SHE TRYING SO HARD TO JOIN SOLOPLAY GUILD?

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU AWAKENED AS A HUNTER LESS THAN TWO YEARS AGO.
AREN'T YOU STILL UNDER CONTRACT WITH HUNTERS GUILD?
I CAN AFFORD TO PAY THE PENALTY FEE.
SHE'S WILLING TO PAY THE PENALTY TO JOIN OUR GUILD?
SOLOPLAY GUILD CAN'T AFFORD THE KIND OF SIGNING BONUS SOMEONE OF YOUR LEVEL WARRANTS, HUNTER CHA.
...NO, I DON'T MIND.
I'M FINE WITH NOT RECEIVING A SIGNING BONUS.


WHY ARE YOU WILLING TO GO TO SUCH LENGTHS JUST TO JOIN OUR GUILD?
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN FROM THIS PLACE, HUNTER CHA.
HOW CAN I EXPLAIN?
NO.
WHATEVER I SAY, HE'LL THINK I'M CRAZY.


AT FIRST...
THERE'S NO...ODOR.
ARE YOU... REALLY A HUNTER?
GRAB
...HIS SCENT...

Hunter Cha! What would be making you call at this hour?
...GOT ME CURIOUS.
CAN YOU PLEASE FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HUNTER JINWOO SUNG FROM THE EXCAVATION TEAM?
HE IS THE HIGHEST-LEVEL BRAWLER, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
BUT HE CAN ALSO USE SUMMONING MAGIC?
SO THESE ARE HUNTER SUNG'S ABILITIES...
HOW MANY MINIONS CAN HE COMMAND?

HE MESSED UP MINSUNG LEE'S PRESS CONFERENCE?
WHY SO MANY MEAN COMMENTS ABOUT HIM?
HE IS AN S-RANK, AS I SUSPECTED...
HE'S NOT A BAD GUY ONCE YOU ACTUALLY GET TO KNOW HIM.
WHAT AM I DOING, LETTING MYSELF GET DISTRACTED WHEN THE JEJU ISLAND RAID IS COMING UP SOON?
I KEPT REMINDING MYSELF NOT TO CARE ABOUT HIM...
...AND NOT TO THINK ABOUT HIM.

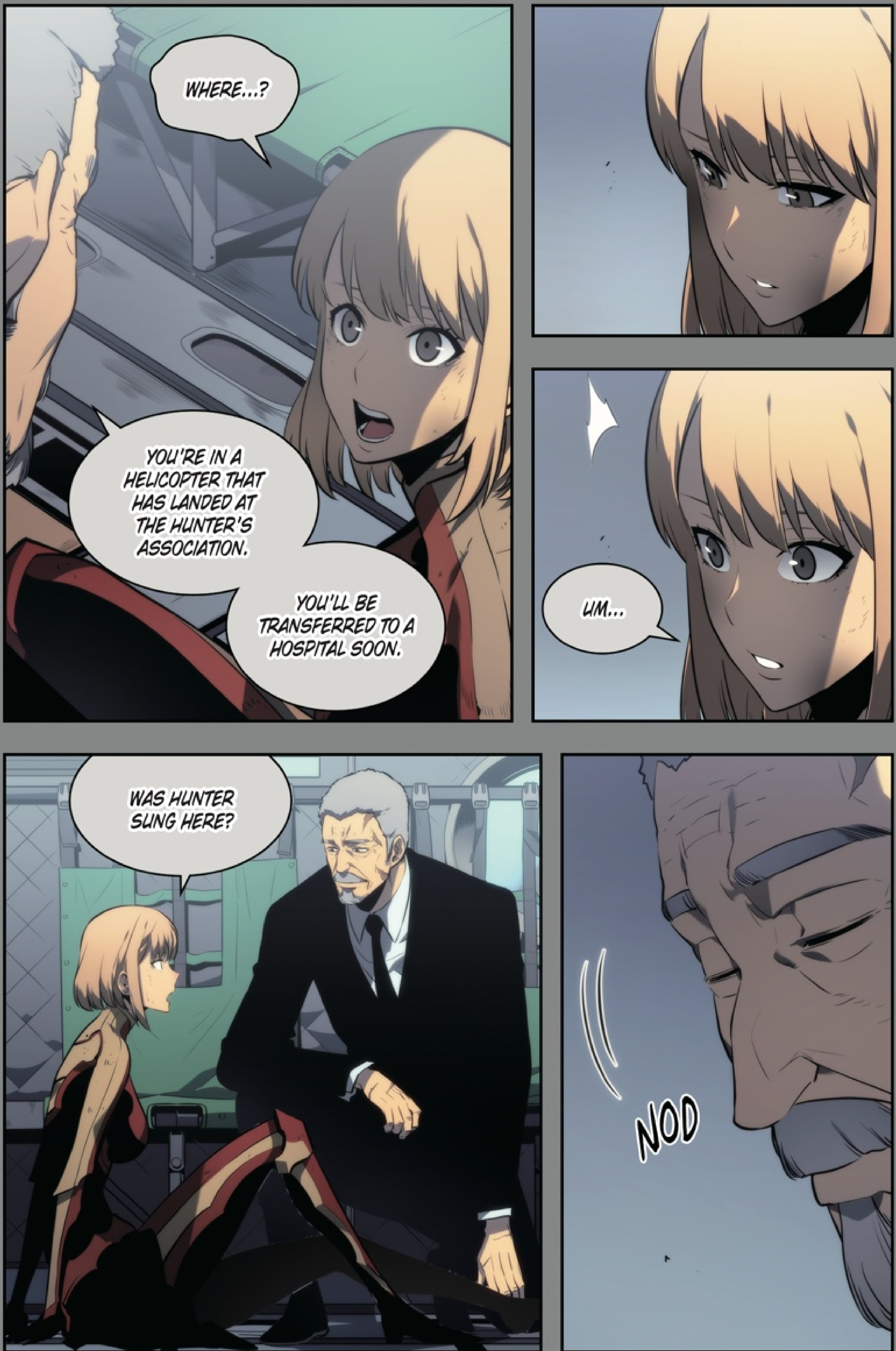
BUT IN A GRAY WORLD,
HE STOOD OUT IN FULL COLOR.

SKRA
I WAS SCARED...
...AND AFRAID.

KA
POW
WH
UD
I WAS SURE I WAS GOING TO DIE.

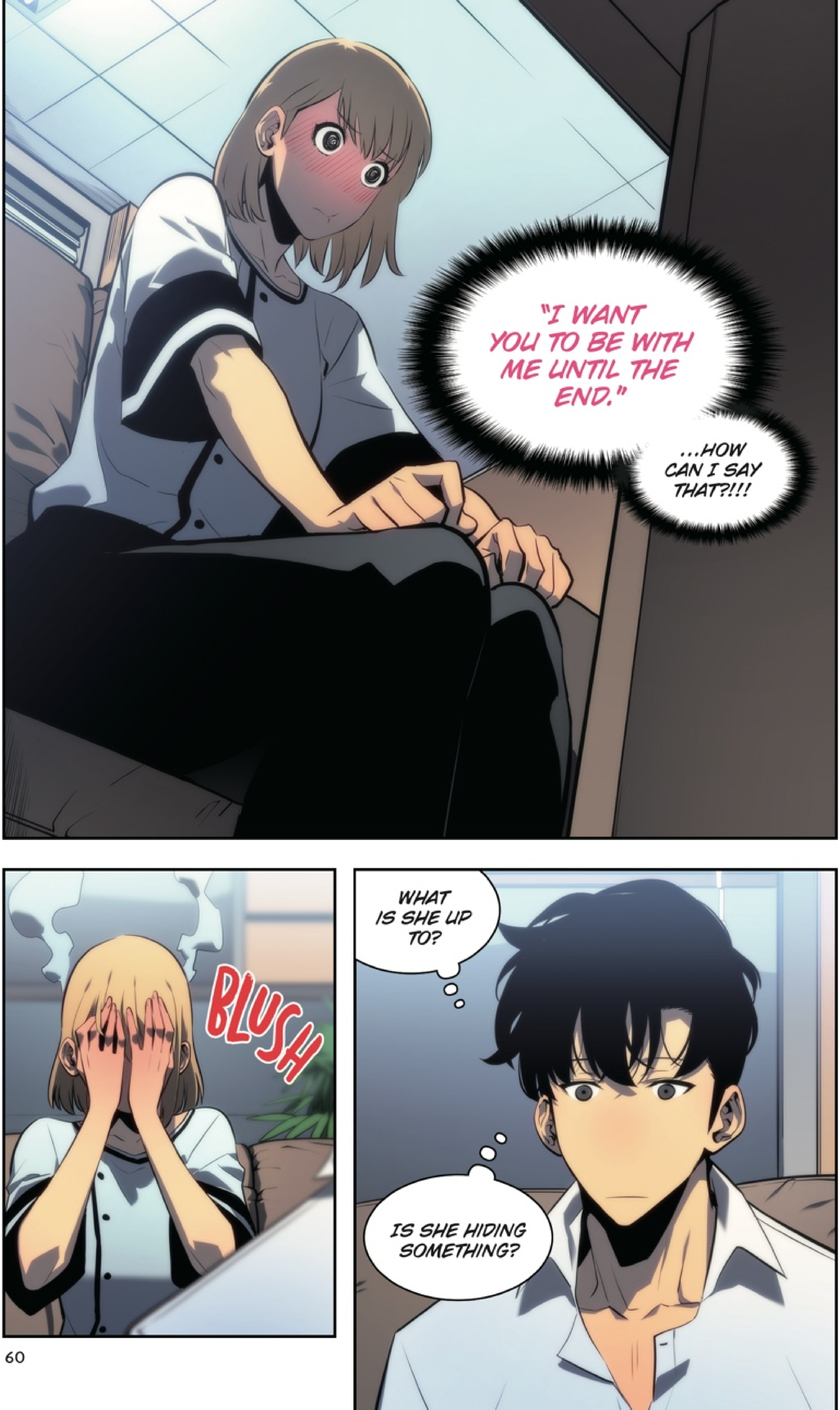
BUT...

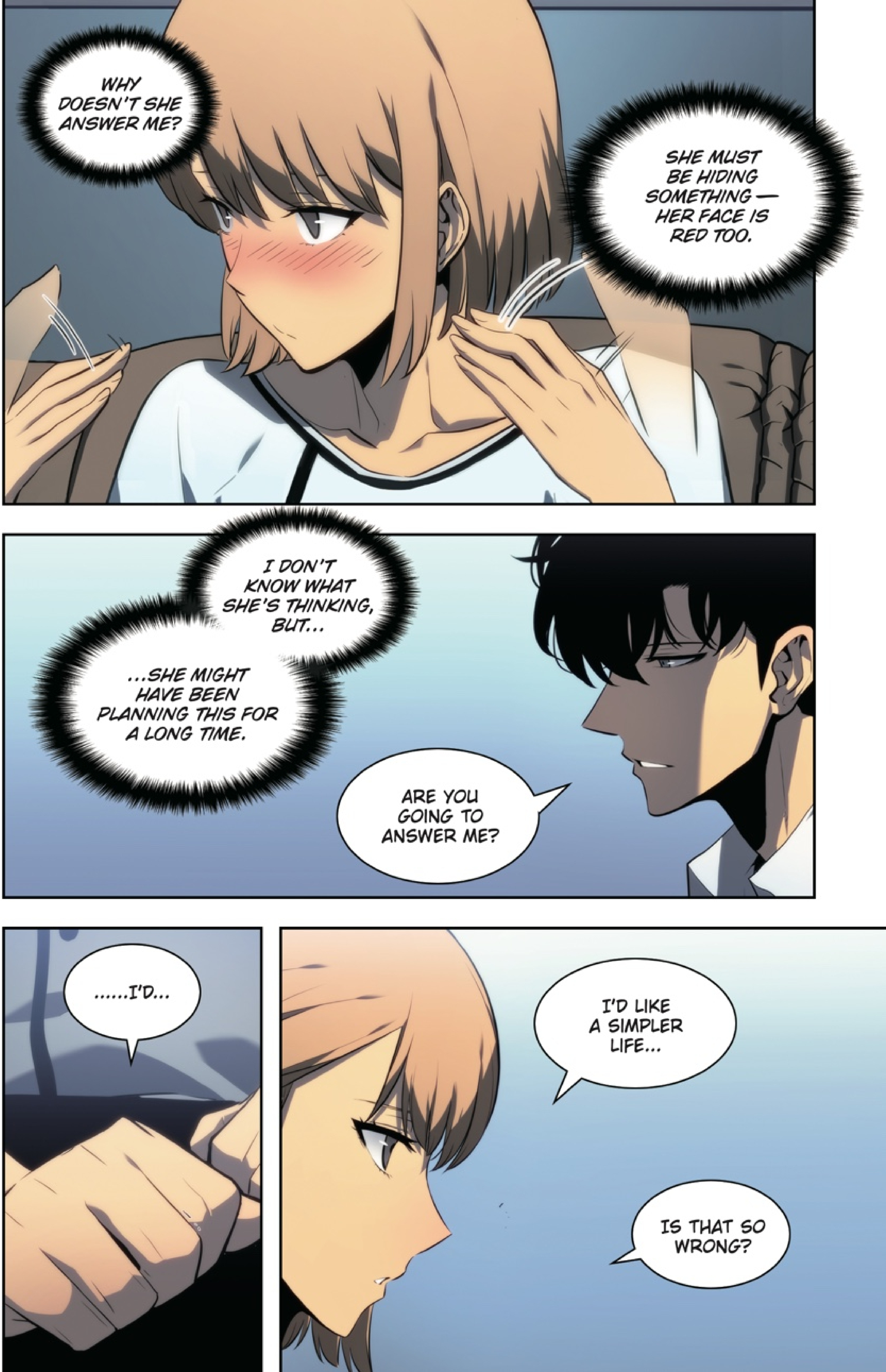
HUNTER CHA.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
JOLT


WHERE...?
YOU'RE IN A HELICOPTER THAT HAS LANDED AT THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION.
YOU'LL BE TRANSFERRED TO A HOSPITAL SOON.
UM...
WAS HUNTER SUNG HERE?
NOD

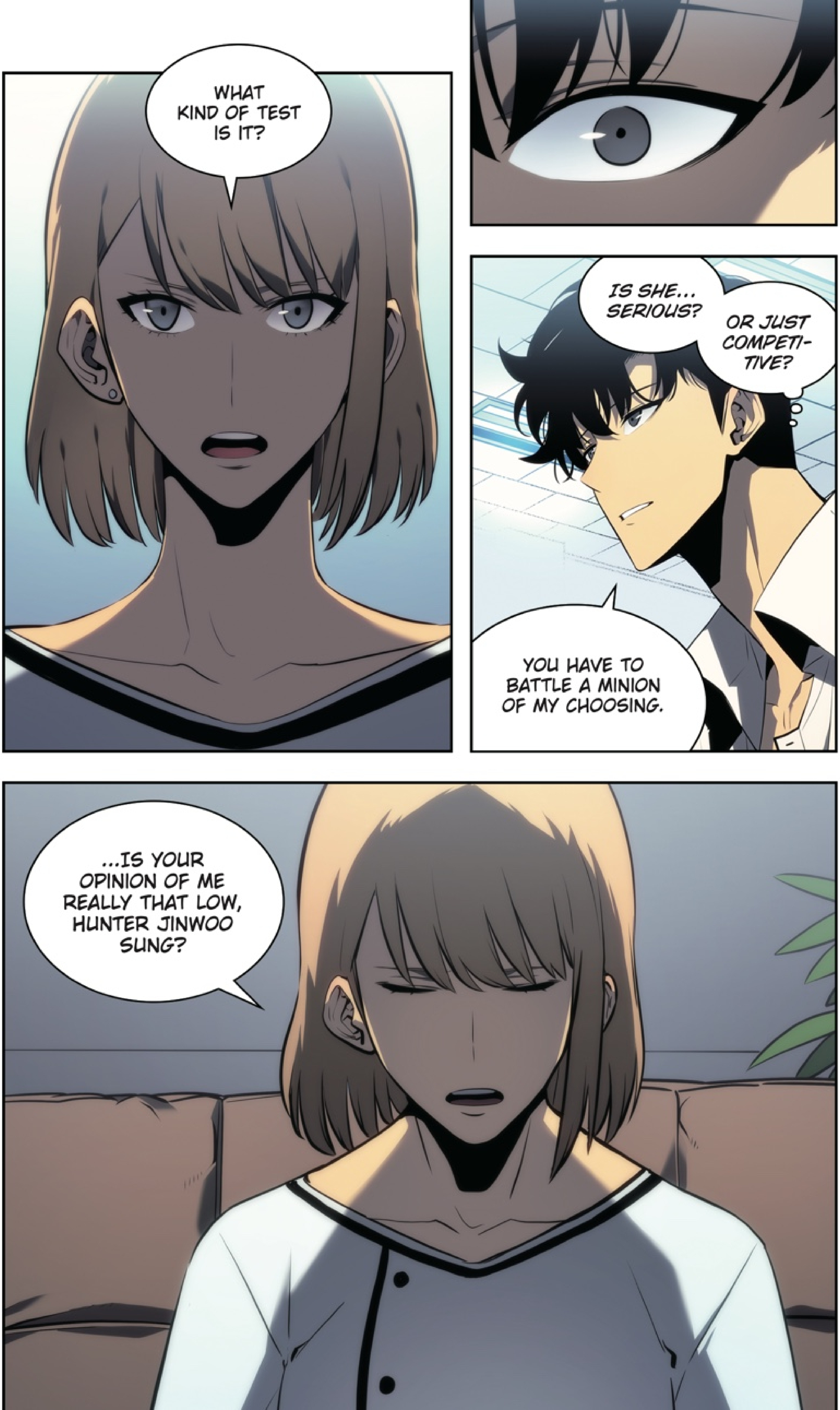
I KNEW IT...
IT WASN'T A DREAM.
I COULD'VE DIED FOR REAL THIS TIME.
NO, WAIT... DID I DIE?
IF...
...BY A MILLION-TO-ONE CHANCE...

...I EVER FIND MYSELF IN A SITUATION WHERE DEATH IS INESCAPABLE...
...WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I CAN'T.
I CAN'T SAY IT...


"I WANT YOU TO BE WITH ME UNTIL THE END."
...HOW CAN I SAY THAT?!!!
BLUSH
WHAT IS SHE UP TO?
IS SHE HIDING SOMETHING?

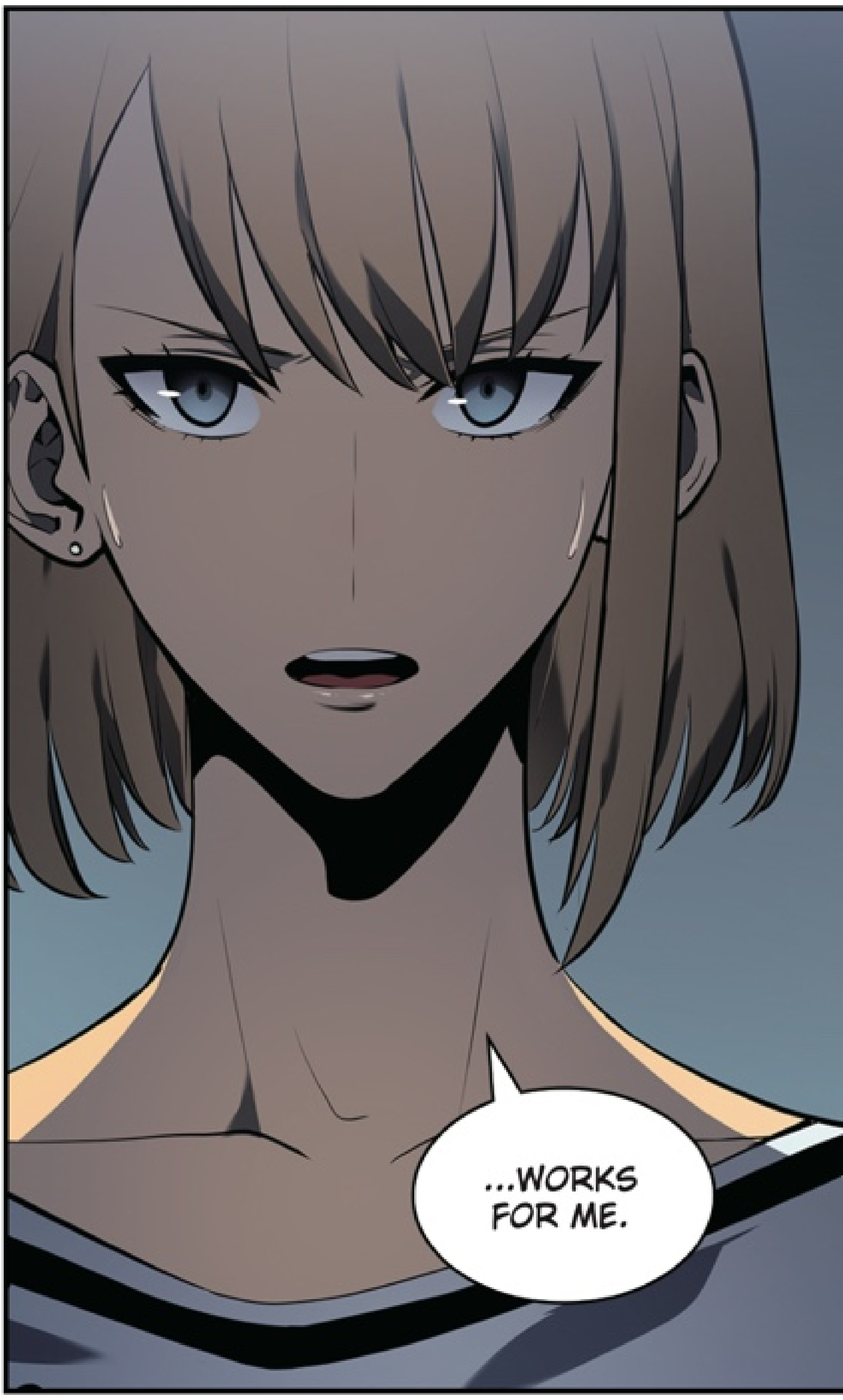

WHY DOESN'T SHE ANSWER ME?
SHE MUST BE HIDING SOMETHING— HER FACE IS RED TOO.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S THINKING, BUT...
...SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN PLANNING THIS FOR A LONG TIME.
ARE YOU GOING TO ANSWER ME?
......I'D...
I'D LIKE A SIMPLER LIFE...
IS THAT SO WRONG?

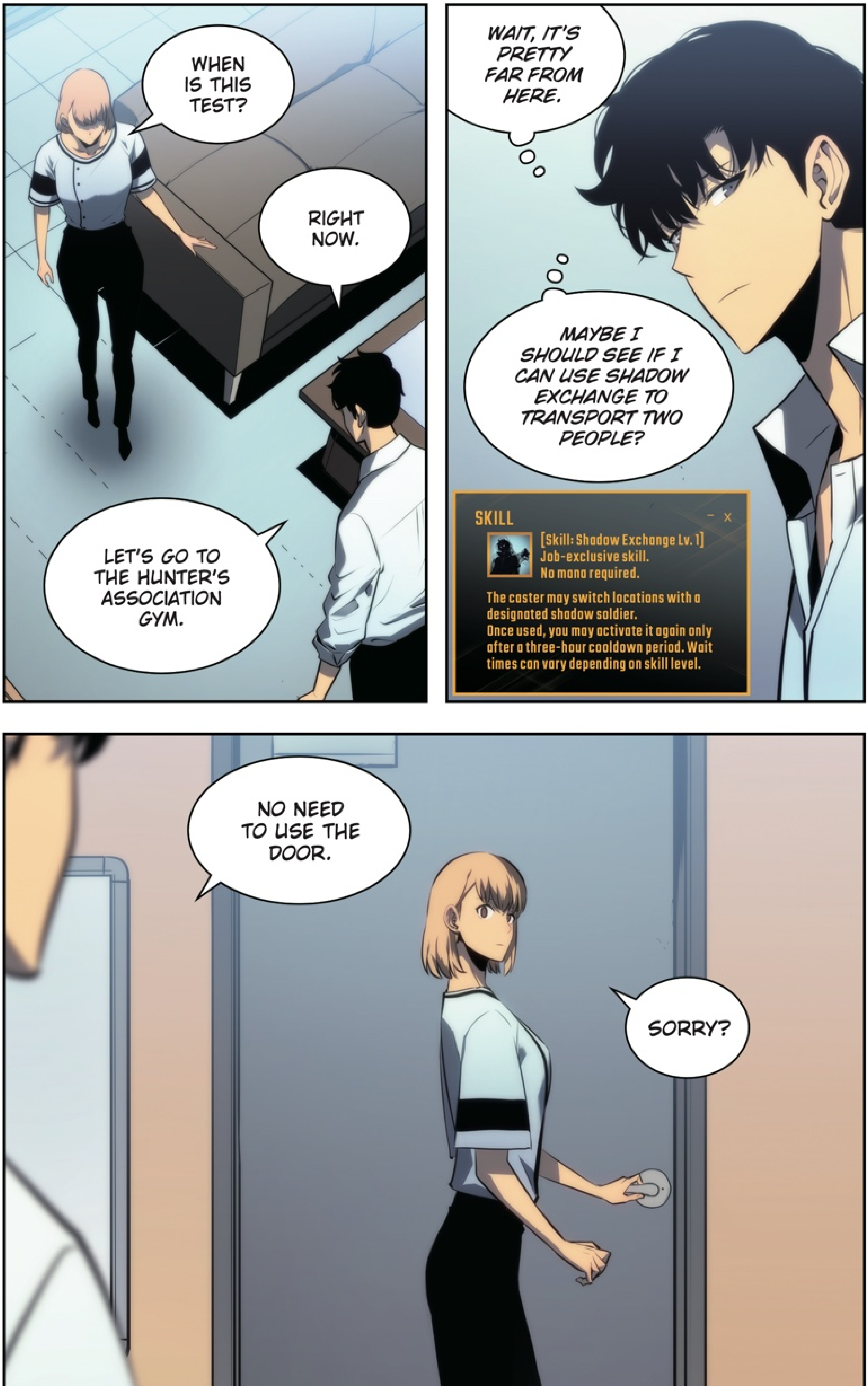
O-OH!
HOW BADLY DOES HUNTERS GUILD PUSH HUNTER CHA THAT SHE SAYS SHE WANTS A SIMPLER LIFE, BOSS?
HUNTER CHA IS IN HER EARLY TWENTIES.
THE BURDEN OF BEING AN S-RANK HUNTER HAS PROBABLY BEEN TOO HEAVY FOR HER.
PLUS, SHE HAD A HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE ON JEJU ISLAND.
I FEEL BAD FOR HER, BUT...
ACTUALLY, THERE'S A TEST TO JOIN OUR GUILD.
PARDON ME? THE JOB LISTING DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOU—
WE ONLY INSTITUTED THE TEST RECENTLY, SO OUR VICE PRESIDENT SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN TO INCLUDE IT.
JINHO, GO GET HER A DRINK AND SOME SNACKS.
Y-YES!

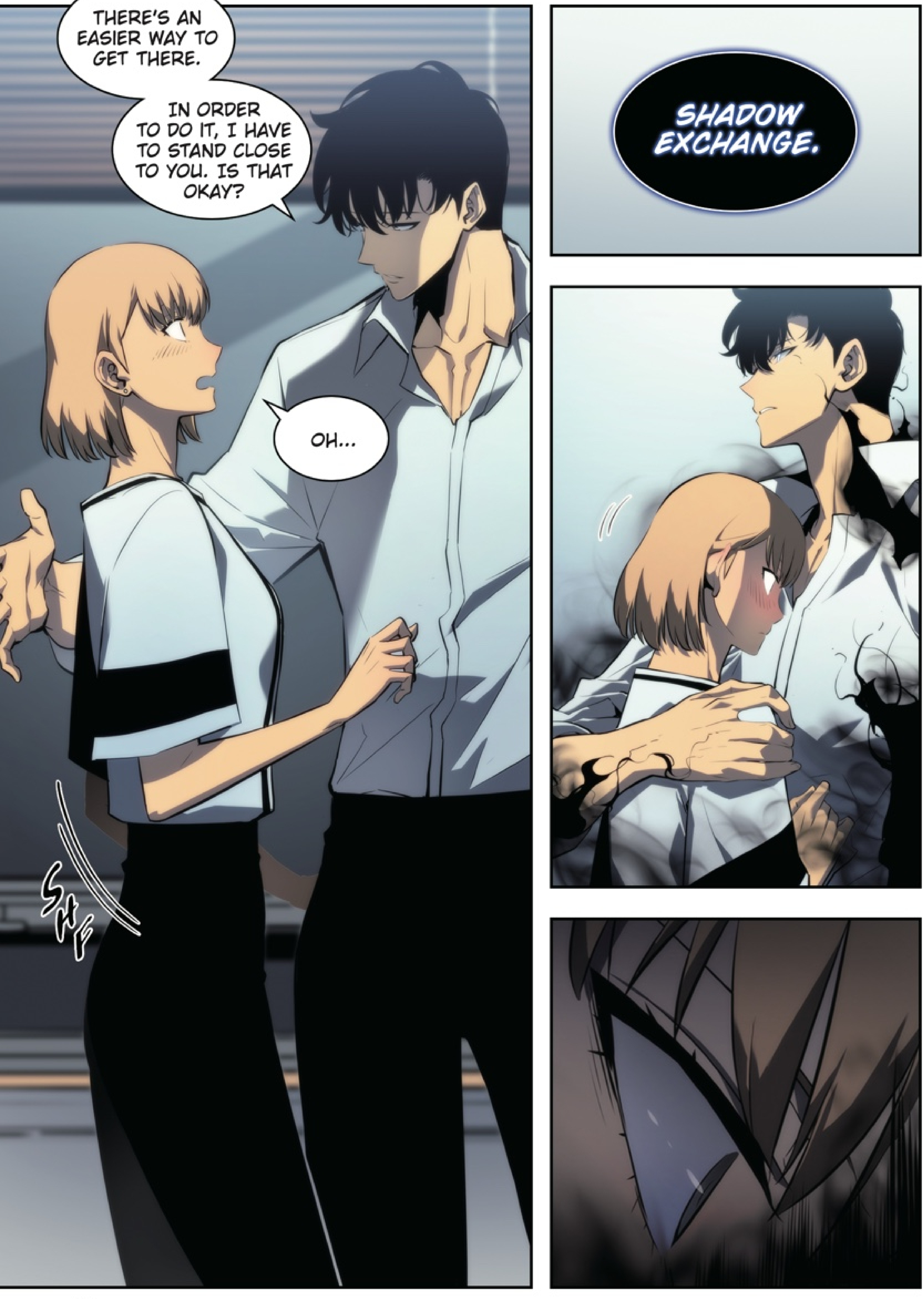

WHAT KIND OF TEST IS IT?
IS SHE... SERIOUS?
OR JUST COMPETITIVE?
YOU HAVE TO BATTLE A MINION OF MY CHOOSING.
...IS YOUR OPINION OF ME REALLY THAT LOW, HUNTER JINWOO SUNG?

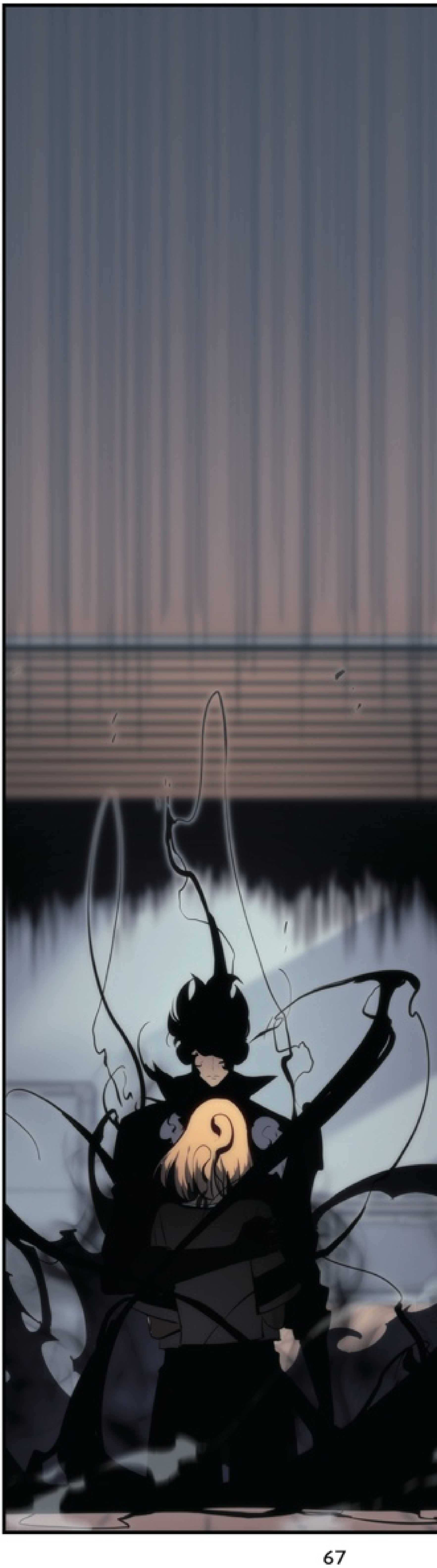
WHICH MINION WILL IT BE?

I'LL CHOOSE THE STRONGEST ONE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU, HUNTER CHA.


...WORKS FOR ME.

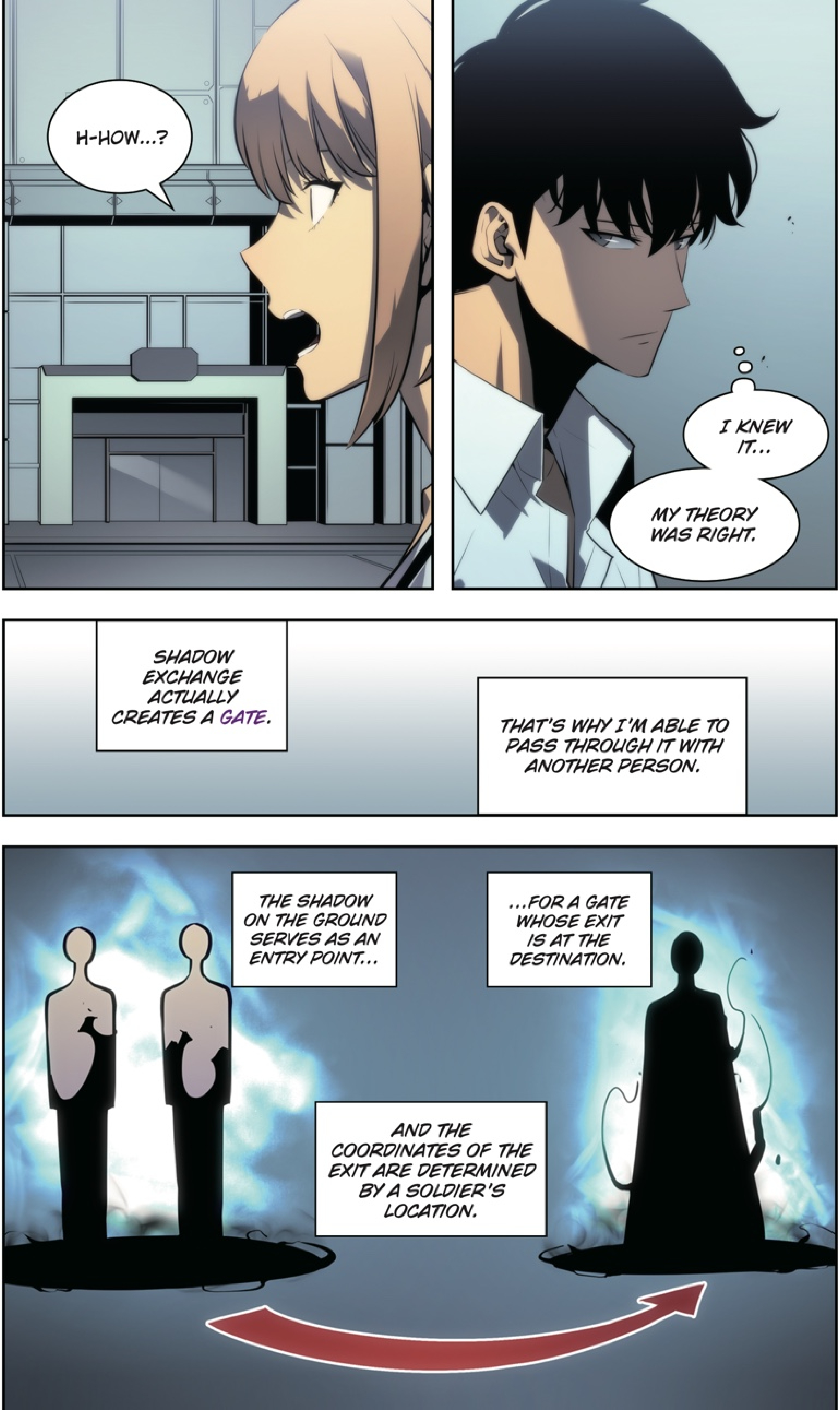

WHEN IS THIS TEST?
RIGHT NOW.
LET'S GO TO THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION GYM.
WAIT, IT'S PRETTY FAR FROM HERE.
MAYBE I SHOULD SEE IF I CAN USE SHADOW EXCHANGE TO TRANSPORT TWO PEOPLE?
SKILL
[Skill: Shadow Exchange Lv. 1]
Job-exclusive skill.
No mana required.
The caster may switch locations with a designated shadow soldier.
Once used, you may activate it again only after a three-hour cooldown period. Wait times can vary depending on skill level.
NO NEED TO USE THE DOOR.
SORRY?

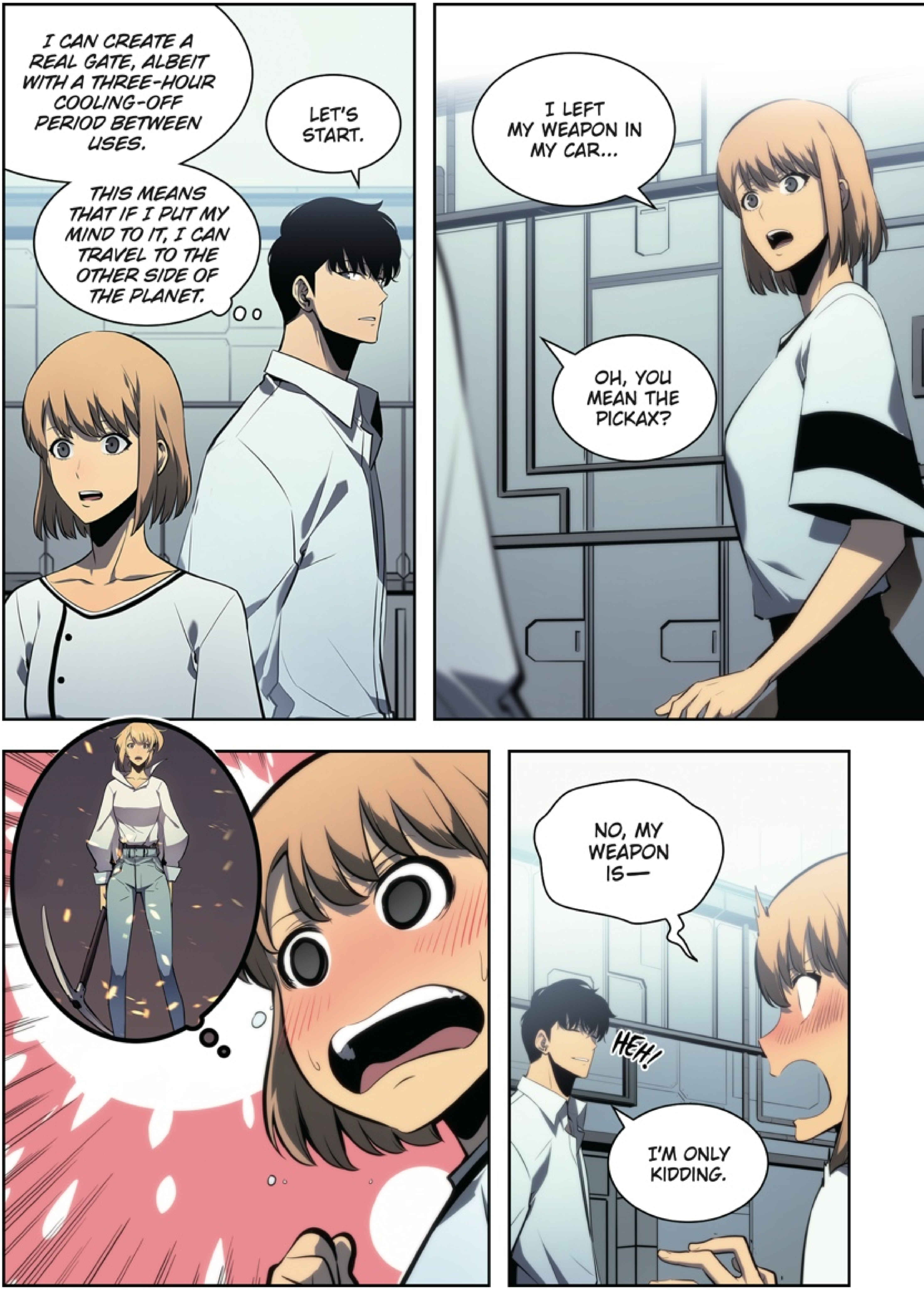

THERE'S AN EASIER WAY TO GET THERE.
IN ORDER TO DO IT, I HAVE TO STAND CLOSE TO YOU. IS THAT OKAY?
OH...
SHF
SHADOW EXCHANGE.

FWSHHH


PLEASE HELP YOURSELF TO—
KA-CHAK
FREEZE
SHWIP
CRUNCH

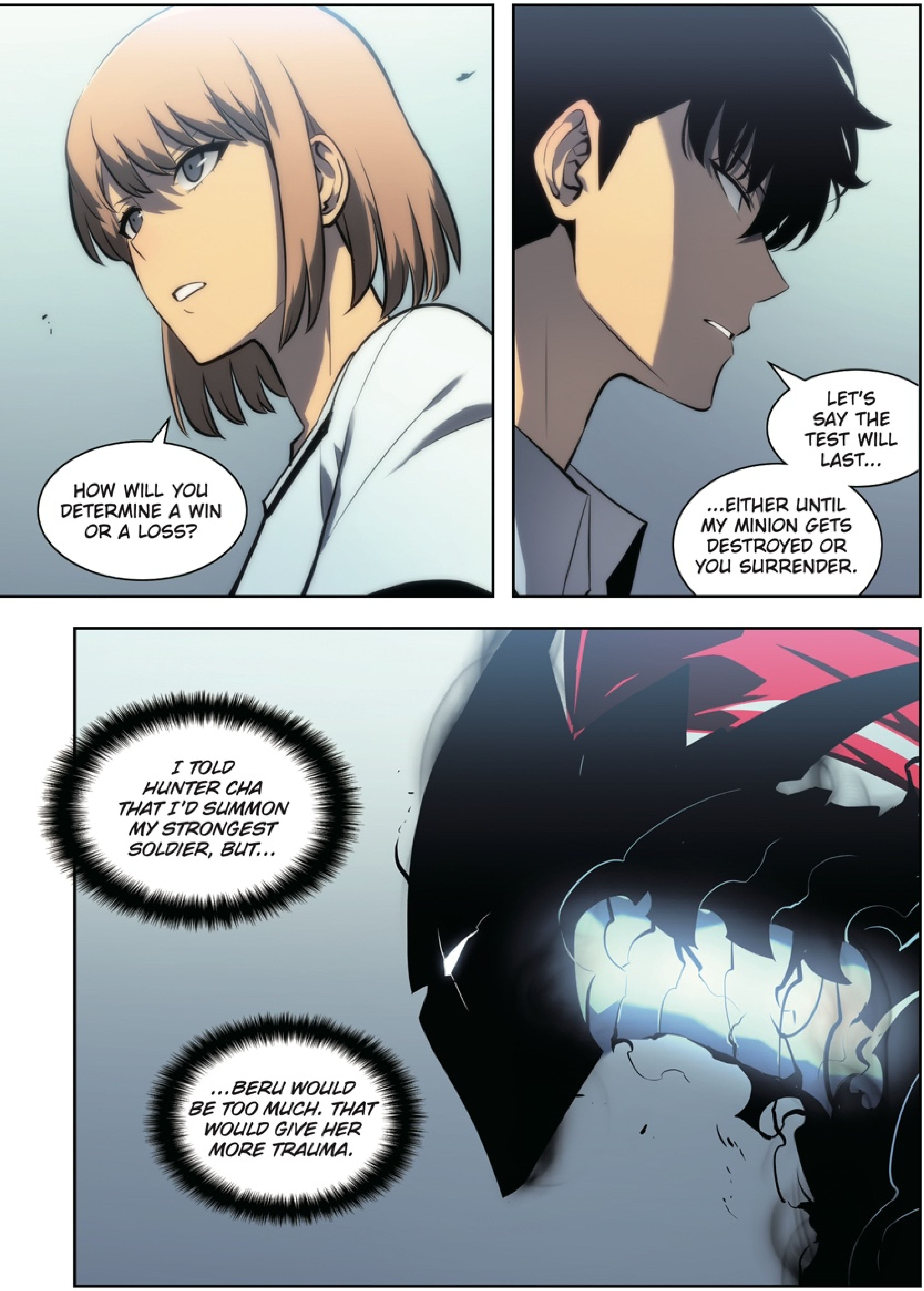
WE'RE HERE.
VWOOM


H-HOW...?
I KNEW IT...
MY THEORY WAS RIGHT.
SHADOW EXCHANGE ACTUALLY CREATES A GATE.
THAT'S WHY I'M ABLE TO PASS THROUGH IT WITH ANOTHER PERSON.
THE SHADOW ON THE GROUND SERVES AS AN ENTRY POINT...
...FOR A GATE WHOSE EXIT IS AT THE DESTINATION.
AND THE COORDINATES OF THE EXIT ARE DETERMINED BY A SOLDIER'S LOCATION.


I CAN CREATE A REAL GATE, ALBEIT WITH A THREE-HOUR COOLING-OFF PERIOD BETWEEN USES.
THIS MEANS THAT IF I PUT MY MIND TO IT, I CAN TRAVEL TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLANET.
LET'S START.
I LEFT MY WEAPON IN MY CAR...
OH, YOU MEAN THE PICKAX?
NO, MY WEAPON IS—
HEH!
I'M ONLY KIDDING.

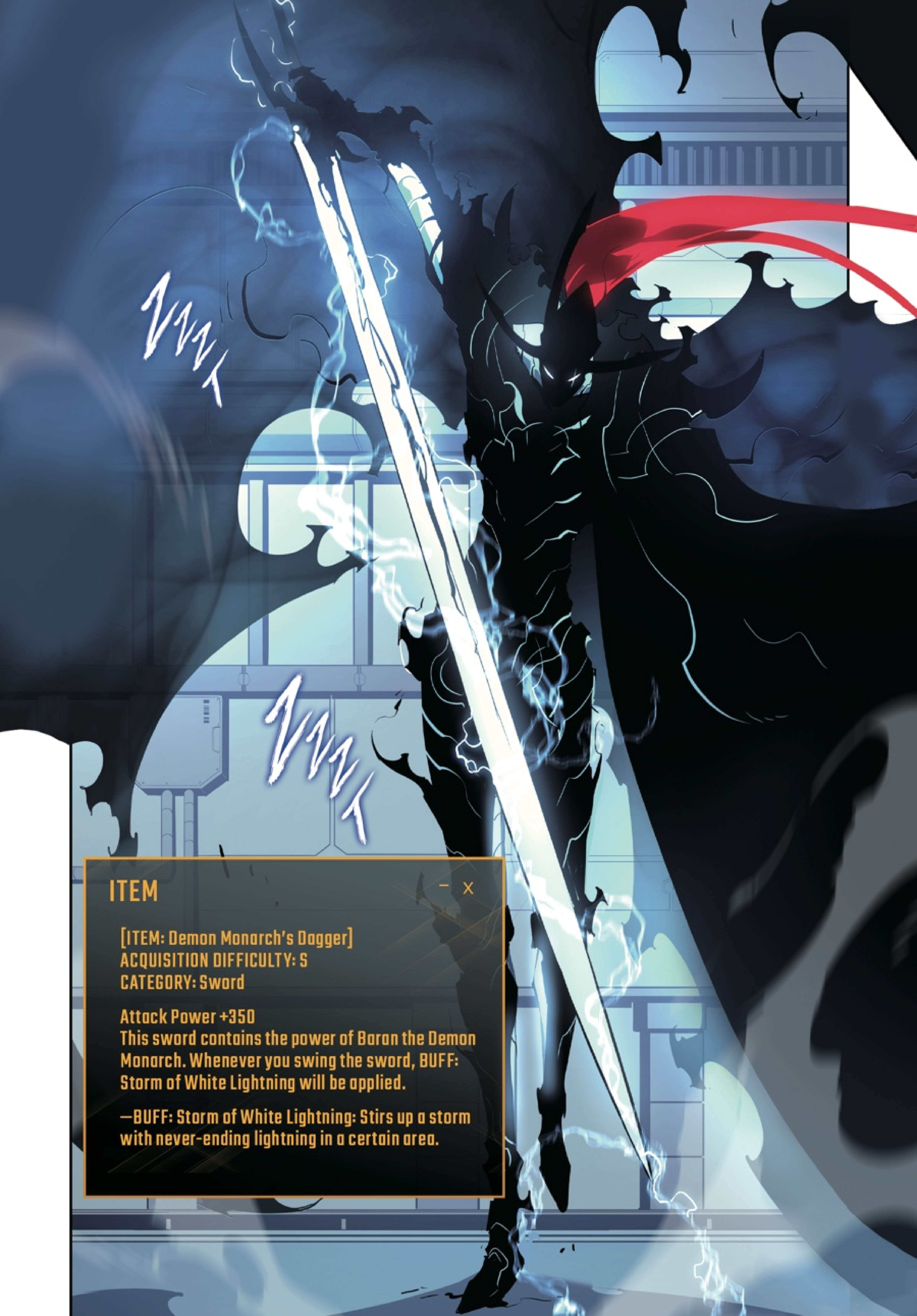
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THEY SHOULD HAVE SOMETHING I CAN BORROW.
BEEP
HUNTERS USE THIS GYM, SO THERE ARE LOTS OF SPARE WEAPONS.
VWEEN
THEY AREN'T GREAT, BUT THEY'RE GOOD ENOUGH FOR PRACTICE.
I'M READY.

YOU GOING TO BE OKAY WITH THAT?
IT'S NOT YOUR SWORD, SO IT MIGHT NOT BE EASY TO HANDLE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT WEAPON I USE.
IT'S NOT LIKE MAGIC BEASTS ATTACK HUNTERS BASED ON HOW THEY'RE ARMED.
THAT IS TRUE.
IF I SUMMON A REGULAR SOLDIER TO OPPOSE HER, SHE'LL TEAR IT IN HALF IN NO TIME.
IGRIS.
WHOOM
AMONG MY SOLDIERS, HE HAS THE BEST SWORDSMANSHIP.


HOW WILL YOU DETERMINE A WIN OR A LOSS?
LET'S SAY THE TEST WILL LAST...
...EITHER UNTIL MY MINION GETS DESTROYED OR YOU SURRENDER.
I TOLD HUNTER CHA THAT I'D SUMMON MY STRONGEST SOLDIER, BUT...
...BERU WOULD BE TOO MUCH. THAT WOULD GIVE HER MORE TRAUMA.

SHALL WE BEGI—
!
WAIT A MINUTE, SHE SAID THE WEAPON DOESN'T MATTER, RIGHT?

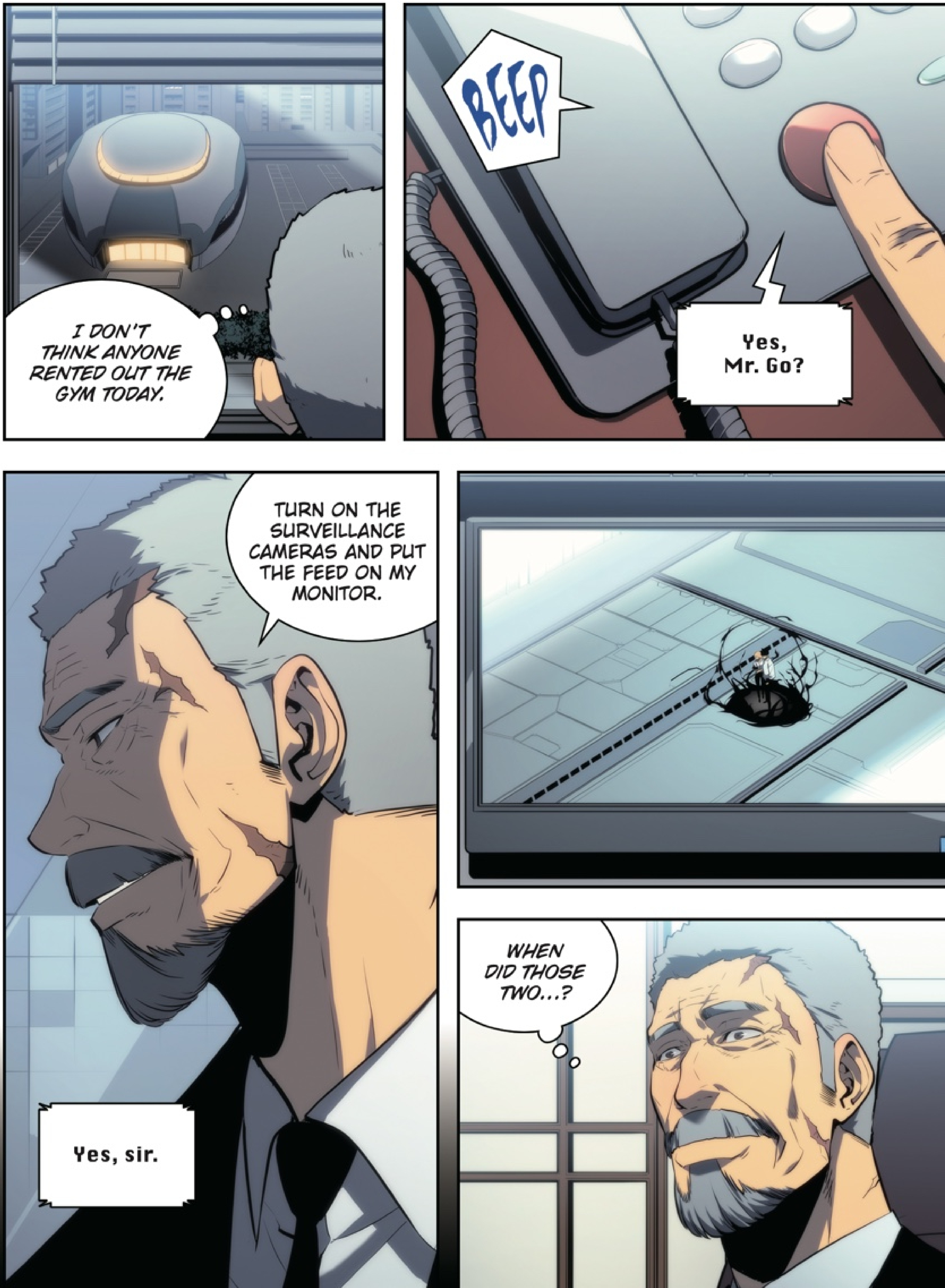
COULD YOU PLEASE TURN AROUND FOR A SECOND?
?
UH... OKAY.
USE THIS.
SHWF
SHALL WE START?
YES.
THEN...
...BEGIN!


ZZZZT
ZZZZT
ITEM
[ITEM: Demon Monarch's Dagger]
ACQUISITION DIFFICULTY: S
CATEGORY: Sword
Attack Power +350
This sword contains the power of Baran the Demon Monarch. Whenever you swing the sword, BUFF: Storm of White Lightning will be applied.
—BUFF: Storm of White Lightning: Stirs up a storm with never-ending lightning in a certain area.

WHO
OSH
KRA
KOOOM

SHP

SHE'S FAST...NO QUESTION.
FOR A NORMAL PERSON, JUST BRUSHING PAST WOULD HAVE BEEN FATAL.
KLANG
TWITCH

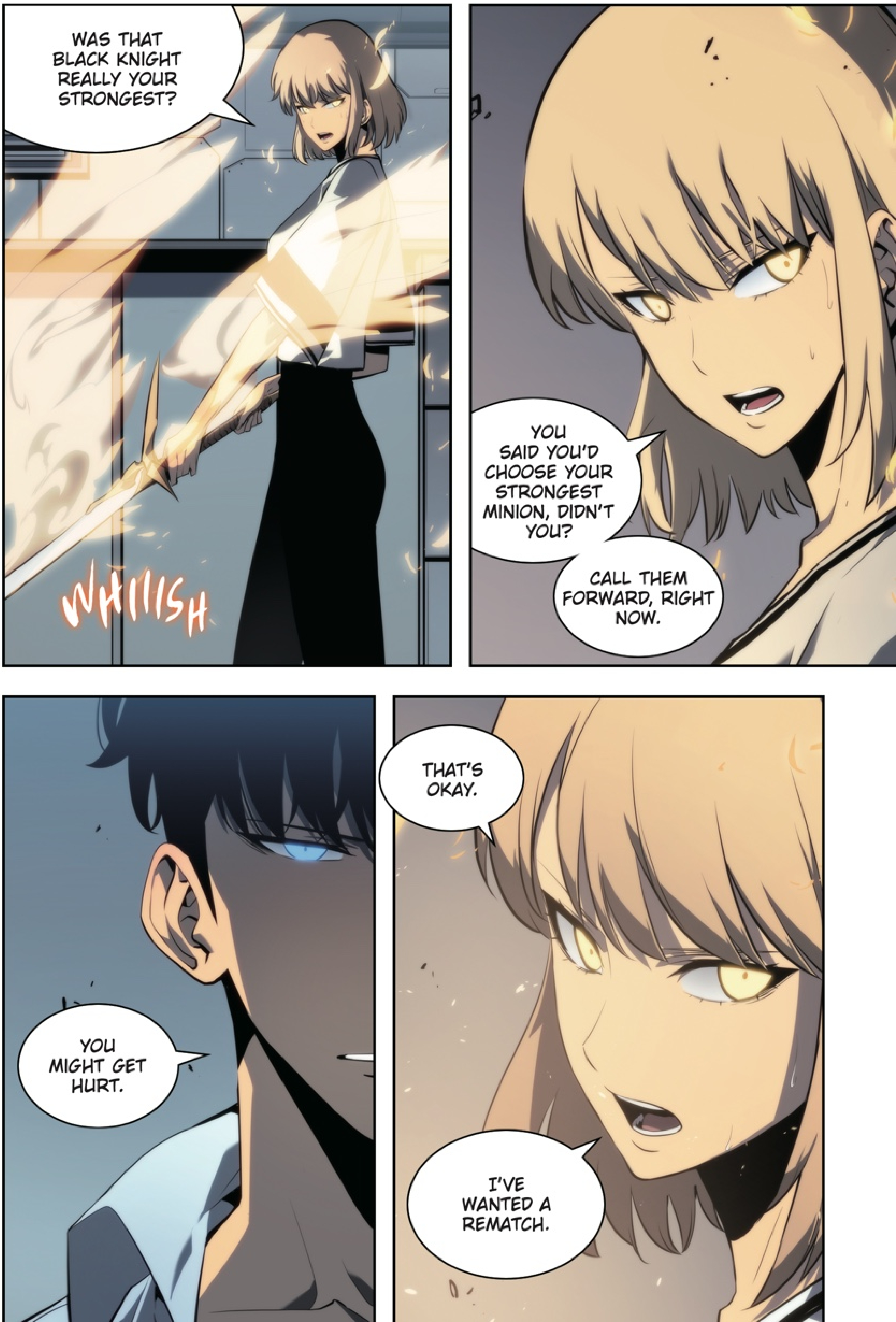

I DON'T THINK ANYONE RENTED OUT THE GYM TODAY.
BEEP
Yes, Mr. Go?
TURN ON THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS AND PUT THE FEED ON MY MONITOR.
Yes, sir.
WHEN DID THOSE TWO...?

WAS HUNTER SUNG HERE?
I...SHOULD'VE SEEN IT.
I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU PLEASE TURN OFF ALL THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN THE GYM?
Sir? But...
NOTE IN THE RECORDS THAT THERE WAS A MAINTENANCE CHECK TODAY.
Under-stood, sir.

회장 고건희
BOOM
OH, TO BE YOUNG AGAIN!

......

RUMBLE


WAS THAT BLACK KNIGHT REALLY YOUR STRONGEST?
WHIIISH
YOU SAID YOU'D CHOOSE YOUR STRONGEST MINION, DIDN'T YOU?
CALL THEM FORWARD, RIGHT NOW.
YOU MIGHT GET HURT.
THAT'S OKAY.
I'VE WANTED A REMATCH.

...YOU KNOW?
I'VE SEEN IT IN PERSON, AND...
...I'VE SEEN THE FOOTAGE.
......
BERU.

I'LL ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME.
VWOOM

ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE OKAY?

ALTHOUGH BERU IS WEAKER NOW THAN WHEN HE WAS ALIVE...
...HE WAS STILL A CREATURE BORN TO KILL HUNTERS.
IF HE FIGHTS AGAINST HUNTER CHA AT FULL FORCE, THE ODDS OF HER WINNING ARE...
MY KING, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO TO THIS HUMAN?
DEFEAT HER WITHOUT HURTING HER.
AS YOU WISH.

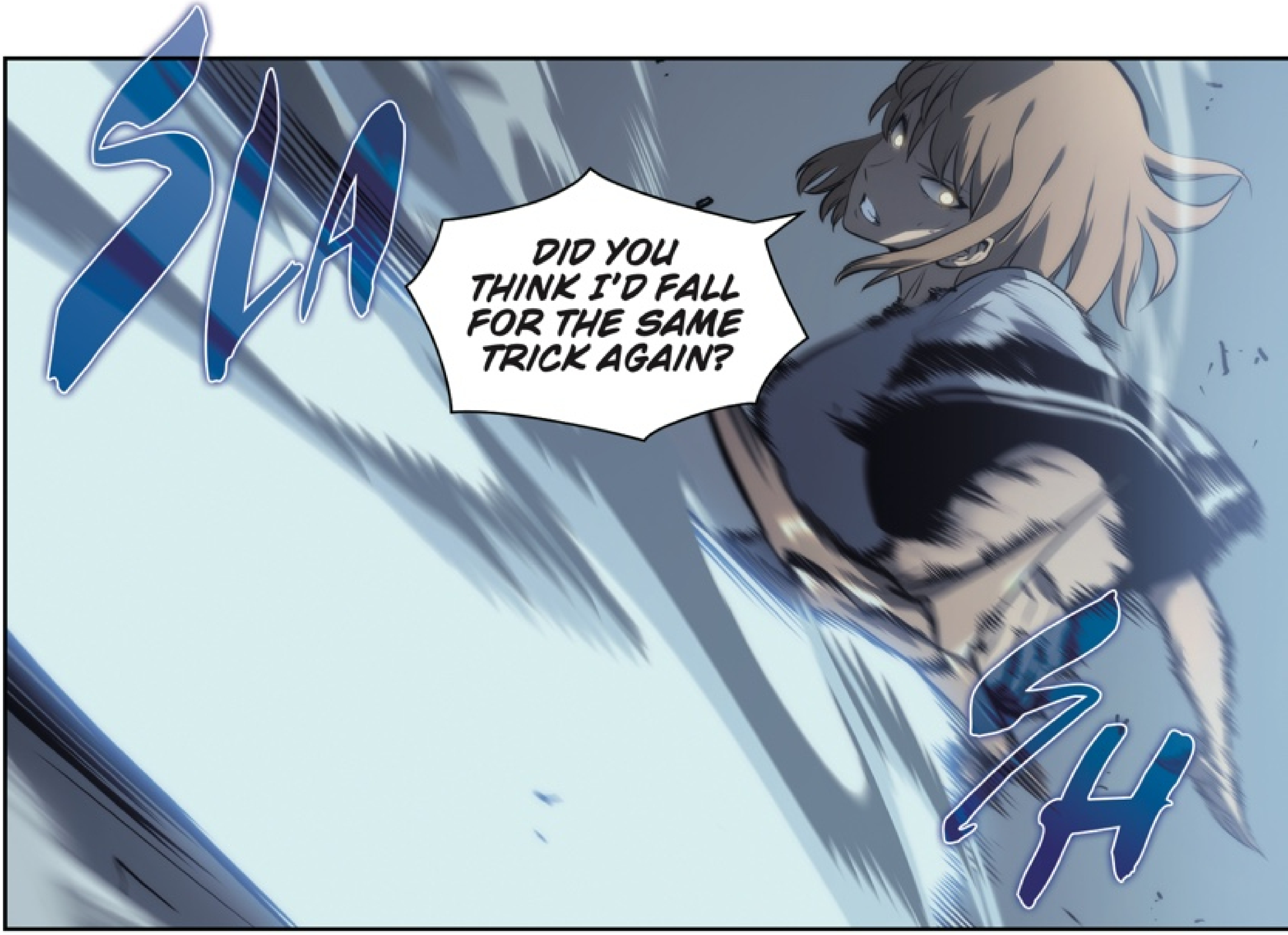
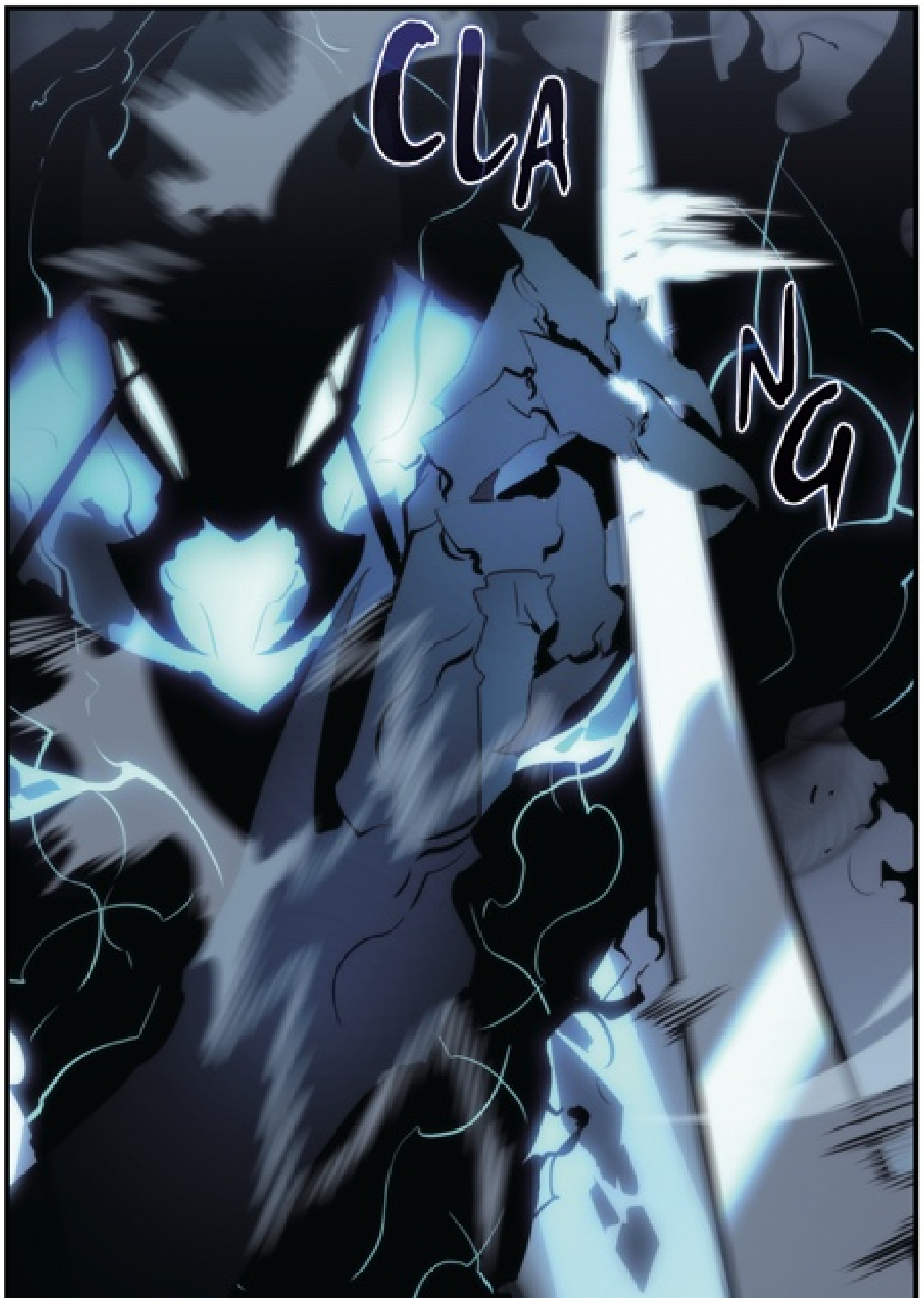
SKRAAAAH!
POW
POW
KA
POW

JINWOO TOOK DOWN THIS MAGIC BEAST?
NO CLAWS.
HURT HER, AND YOU'LL BE IN A WORLD OF HURT YOURSELF.
AS YOU COMMAND.
SHF

AN OPENING... NOW!

ZOOM

THIS IS...!
JUST LIKE LAST TIME?!


SLA
DID YOU THINK I'D FALL FOR THE SAME TRICK AGAIN?
SH

CLA
NG

I'VE BEEN GIVEN A SINGLE COMMAND.
CLINK
DEFEAT THE ENEMY WITHOUT HURTING HER.

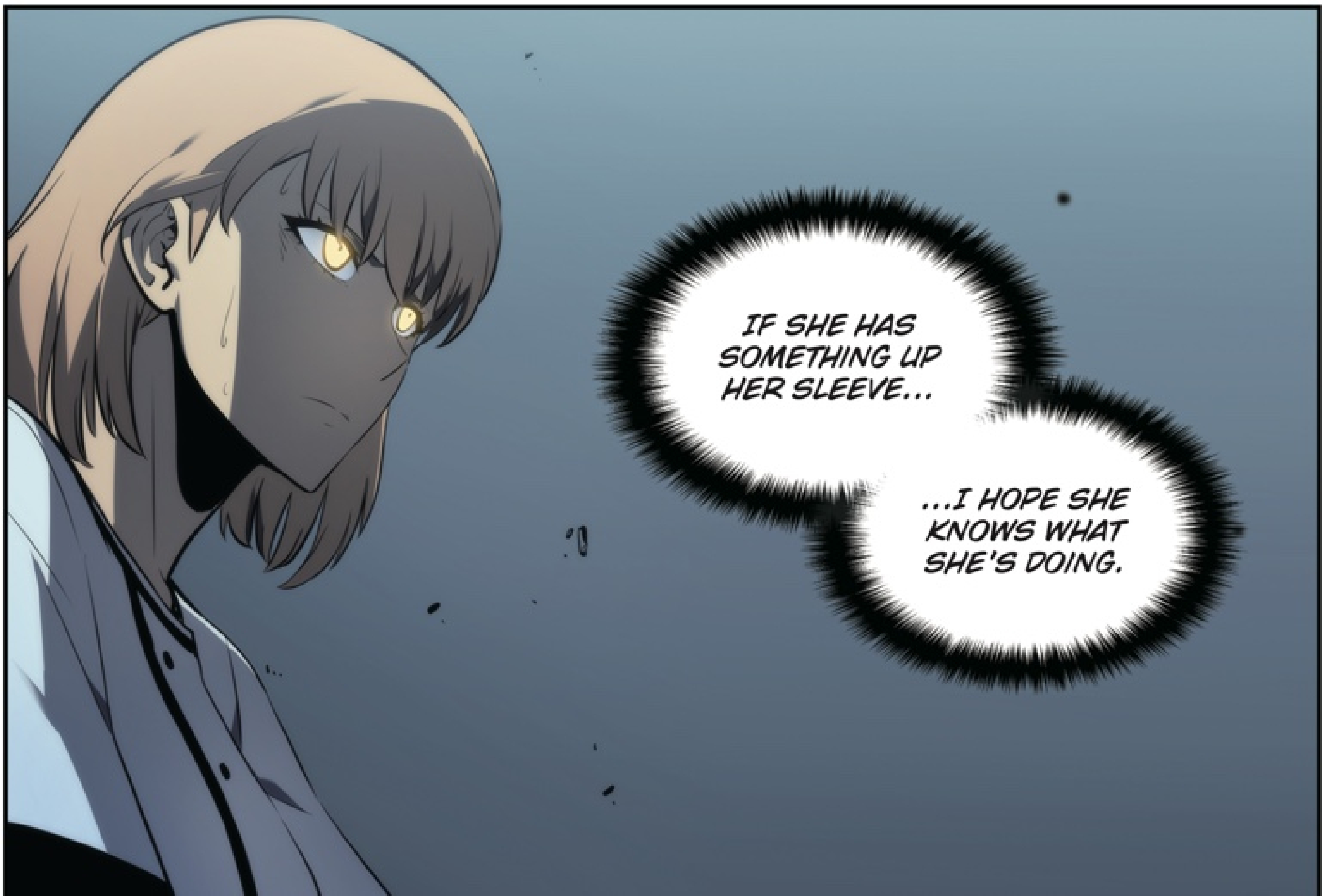
OVERWHELM HER WITH A DISPLAY OF STRENGTH AND MAKE HER LOSE HER WILL TO FIGHT.
THAT'S EASY.
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
FWISH

NOT YET!
FWIP
THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
HOW CAN HE DODGE AT THIS CLOSE OF A RANGE WITHOUT TAKING A SINGLE STEP?

SKRAAAAAAH!

SKIIID
IT'S OVER.
ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW?
WHAT'S GOING ON IN HER HEAD?
I...
...CAN KEEP FIGHTING.
SHE'S NOT RECKLESS ENOUGH TO RUSH INTO A FIGHT SHE'S GOT NO HOPE OF WINNING.

BERU IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER SHADOW SOLDIERS.
ALTHOUGH HE'S INTELLIGENT, HE'S A KILLING MACHINE BY NATURE.
EVEN NOW, I CAN FEEL HIM SUPPRESSING HIS KILLER INSTINCTS.


IF SHE HAS SOMETHING UP HER SLEEVE...
...I HOPE SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING.

INSTINCT'S WARNING—
HOW DARE SHE...?
ANY TWO LIVING BEINGS CAN TELL THROUGH EYE CONTACT ALONE WHICH ONE OF THEM IS PREDATOR AND WHICH IS PREY.
I CANNOT PERMIT...
...PREY TO RESIST PREDATOR.
WHOOSH

BAM

SKIIID

SKREECH

SKILL, SWORD DANCE.

BAM
BAM
BAM
SH UNK
I HAVE ONE SHOT AT THIS!

I ONLY HAVE MAGIC POWER FOR ONE SHOT, BUT... THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH!
SKILL...
SWORD OF LIGHT
NO!!

IN THAT FLEETING MOMENT...
...ONE CLEAR AND SIMPLE ORDER WAS TRIGGERED IN BERU.
THE ORDER HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE QUEEN ANT WHEN HE WAS BORN—
AN UNSTOPPABLE, FORGOTTEN ORDER AWOKEN BY INSTINCT—
ANNIHILATE ALL ENEMIES.
SHE IS THE ENEMY.

KRIK
KRAAAK

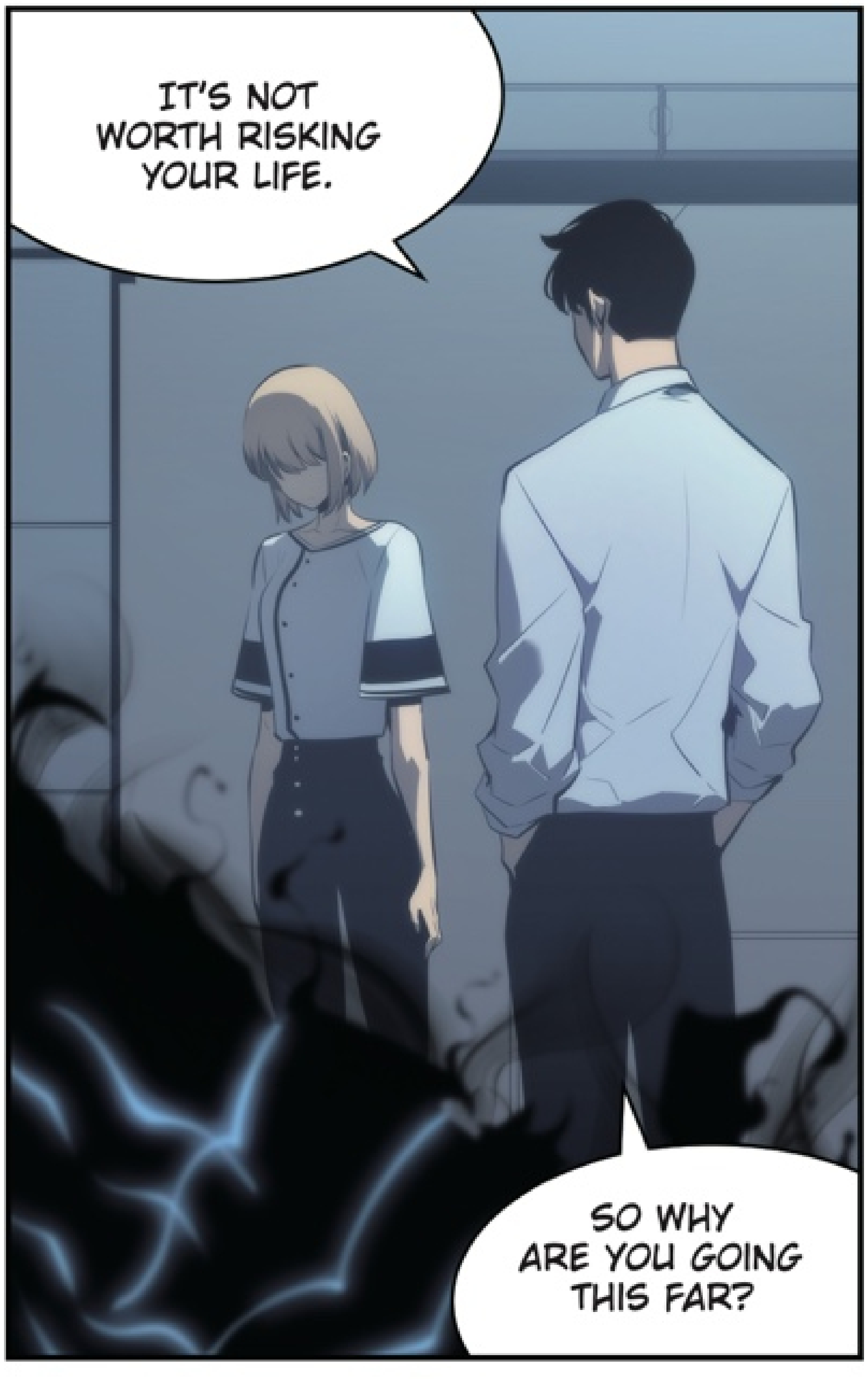
STOP!
FWOOSH

KA
BOOM

...I SAID STOP.
TMP TMP TMP
ARE YOU OKAY?
YES.
M-MY KING, PLEASE SHOW ME MERCY...

WHY ARE YOU PUSHING YOURSELF TO YOUR LIMIT?
THERE'S NO NEED TO TRY SO HARD TO JOIN OUR GUILD, IS THERE?

......
IT WAS ONLY A TEST.
A TEST TO JOIN A NAMELESS GUILD.


IT'S NOT WORTH RISKING YOUR LIFE.
SO WHY ARE YOU GOING THIS FAR?

......
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ANSWER ME?
I HAVE TO ASK...
...DO YOU HAVE A THING FOR ME OR SOMETHING?
......
WHAT?

IS THAT NOT IT EITHER?
WHAT IS SHE UP TO?
...YES.

I THINK SO.

HUNTER COMMAND CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES
<I am so sorry, sir.>
<I didn't call you here for an apology.>
<Quickly tell me what happened over there.>
TAP
<Mrs. Sellner observed Hunter Sung.>
<According to her...>

<...Hunter Sung is one of the kings.>
<What?!>

<Mrs. Sellner...>
<...does this mean that Hunter Sung holds the power of a national-level hunter?>
<I...should explain.>

<Awakened beings have connections to the other side that enable them to access the power there.>
<I am able to detect the passage of those connections.>

<Sometimes I see a shining light emanating from awakened beings...>
<...because the power coming from the other side is so strong.>
<I often refer to them as kings.>
<But he...>
<...doesn't have a connection.>
SHIVER
SHIVER
<As soon as I looked into his eyes, the darkness in him looked back at me.>
<It was like looking at darkness incarnate.>

<Darkness incarnate...>
<Are you saying he's an evil person?>
<It's not about whether Hunter Sung is good or evil.>
<I'm talking about the source of his power.>
<Hunter Sung...>
<...doesn't get his power from somewhere else.>
<His power doesn't come through the passage.>
<Rather, it comes from within himself, so no connection limits his power.>
<In other words...>

<There's no limit to his power.>
NOD
<Thank you, Mrs. Sellner.>
<Where are you going, sir?>
<Basement level 24.>
<Follow me.>

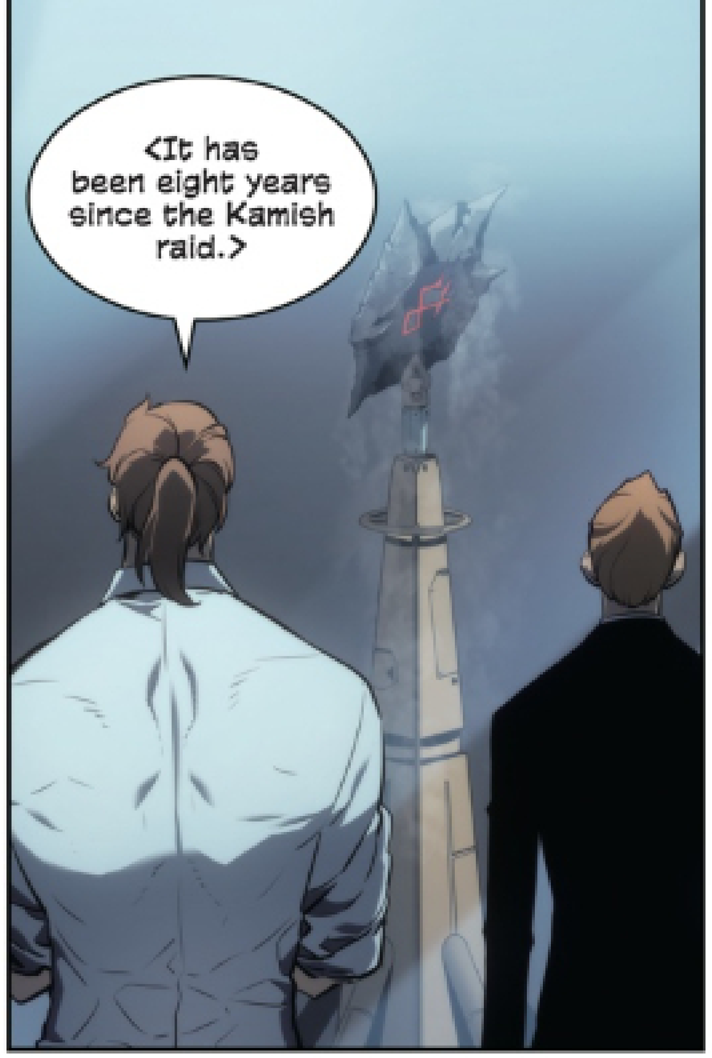
WHOOOM
<If Mrs. Sellner's power won't lure him here, we'll have to find something else that will.>
<Do you remember the first S-rank gate?>
<Of course.>
<How could I forget the horrific dungeon break that...>
<...crippled the western part of the United States?>
<The government offered the world's best hunters a handsome reward to defeat the boss. Only five hunters survived.>
<Thus, they granted the five hunters all the rights, privileges, and powers the U.S. had to offer.>
<It was from this that the term "national-level hunter" was born.

<The Undying Flame, Kamish the Dragon.>
<One magic beast killed off dozens of the world's best hunters.>
<Would you believe that a little gift was left behind from that horrific incident?>
<Is that...?>
<Yes, it is.>
BEEP BEEP BEEP

RUMBLE

<Look.>

<This is the rune stone that came from Kamish's remains.>


<It has been eight years since the Kamish raid.>

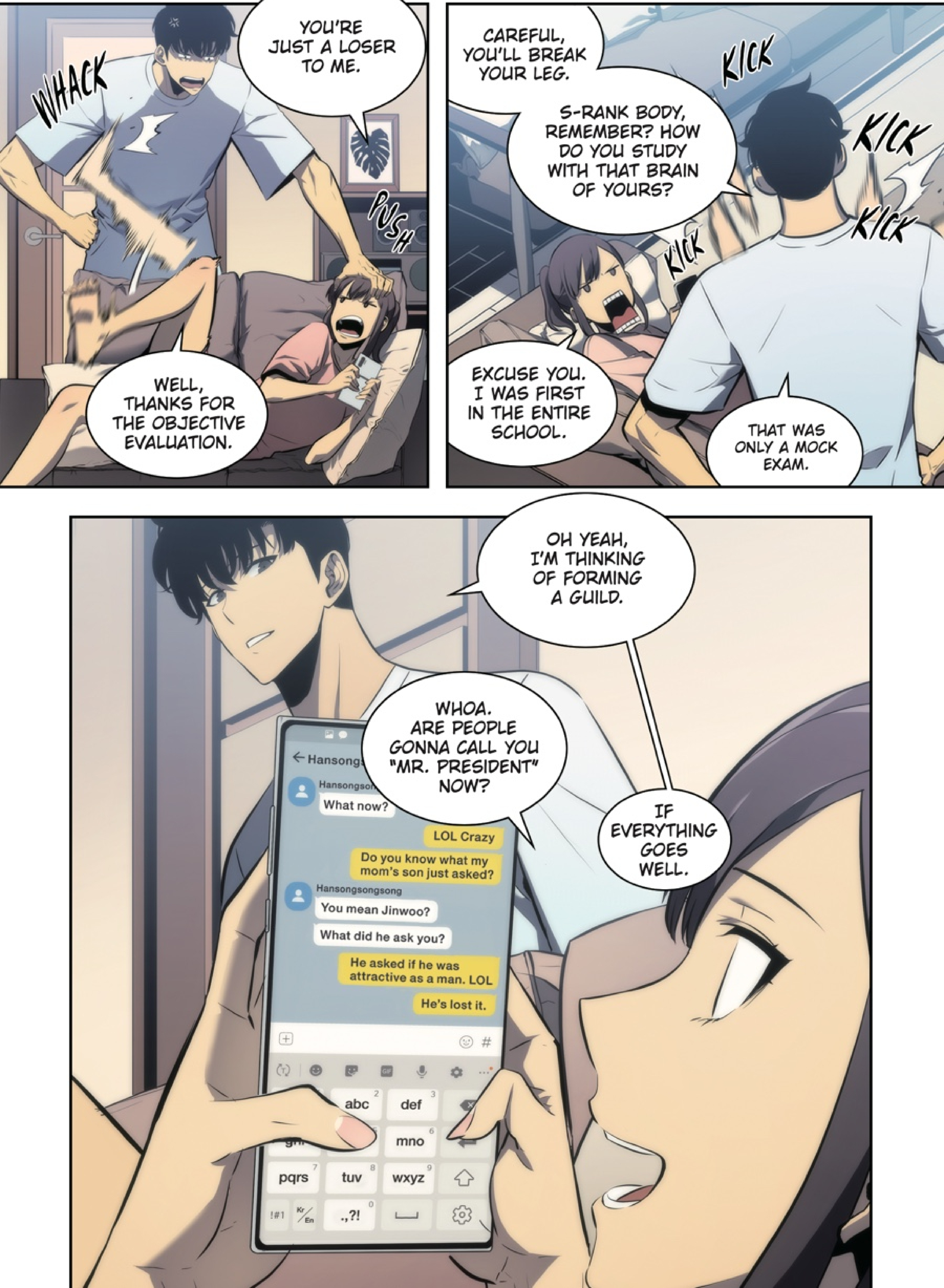
<Since there were no mage hunters among the surviving national-level hunters...>
<...Kamish's rune stone had been waiting a long time for a suitable master in this cold basement.>

<Kamish...>

<...will give this great country yet another invaluable gift.>

HMM...

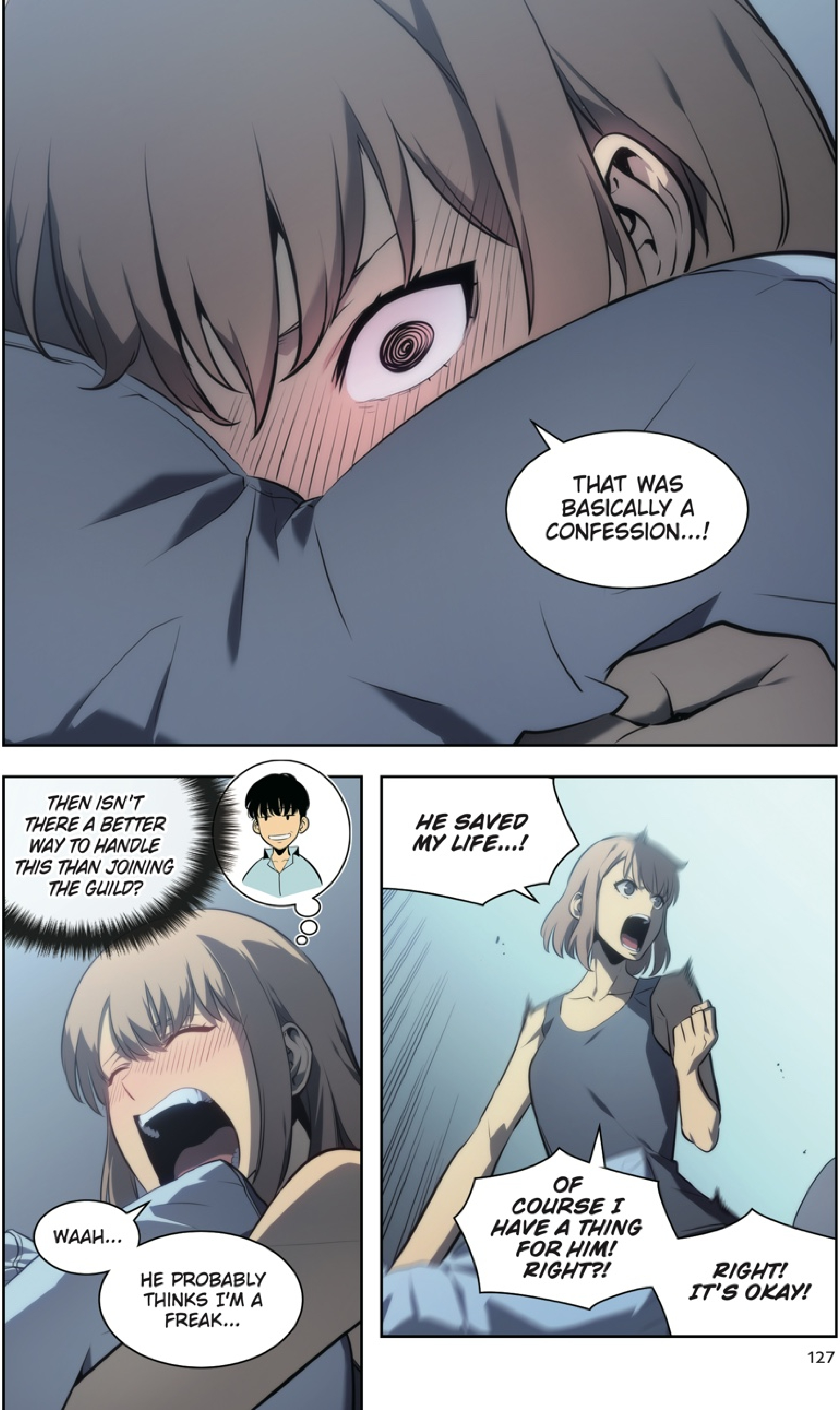
I'VE DEFINITELY GOTTEN TALLER AND MORE MUSCULAR SINCE I REAWAKENED. BUT AM I ATTRACTIVE?
I LOOK LIKE THE AVERAGE GUY ON THE STREET.
IS THIS FROM THE SPIRIT OF REHABILITATION BUFF?
MY SCARS, MOLES, AND BLEMISHES ARE COMPLETELY GONE NOW BECAUSE THE BUFF TAKES CARE OF ALL PHYSICAL DAMAGE.
HEY.
MM?
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ME?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
LIKE, HOW ATTRACTIVE AM I AS A MAN?
HUH?
WHAT'S WITH THE SWAGGER ALL OF A SUDDEN?



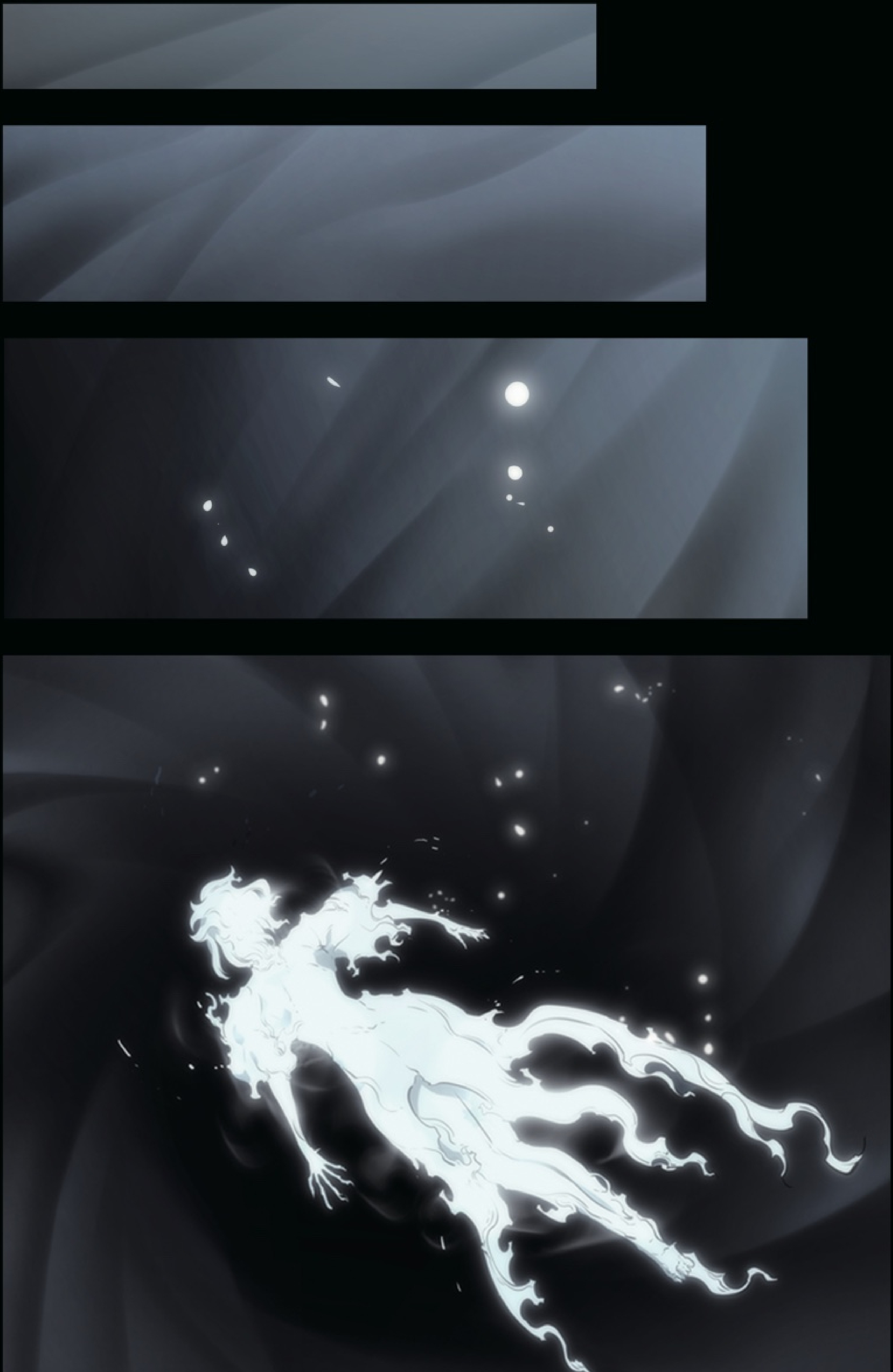
WHACK
YOU'RE JUST A LOSER TO ME.
PUSH
WELL, THANKS FOR THE OBJECTIVE EVALUATION.
CAREFUL, YOU'LL BREAK YOUR LEG.
KICK
KICK
S-RANK BODY, REMEMBER? HOW DO YOU STUDY WITH THAT BRAIN OF YOURS?
KICK
KICK
EXCUSE YOU. I WAS FIRST IN THE ENTIRE SCHOOL.
THAT WAS ONLY A MOCK EXAM.
OH YEAH, I'M THINKING OF FORMING A GUILD.
WHOA. ARE PEOPLE GONNA CALL YOU "MR. PRESIDENT" NOW?
IF EVERYTHING GOES WELL.
Hansongsongsong
What now?
LOL Crazy
Do you know what my mom's son just asked?
Hansongsongsong
You mean Jinwoo?
What did he ask you?
He asked if he was attractive as a man. LOL
He's lost it.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF "SOLOPLAY GUILD"?
WHY WOULD YOU NAME YOUR GUILD THAT?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
WHY? IS IT WEIRD?
YOUR POWER IS SUMMONING THOSE SOLDIERS IN BLACK ARMOR. SO TECHNICALLY YOU DON'T FIGHT ALONE.
THAT MAKES SENSE... SO WHAT SHOULD I NAME IT?
HOW ABOUT AHJIN GUILD?
"AH" MEANS "MYSELF" AND "JIN" MEANS "MOVING FORWARD."
AHJIN?
I BASICALLY JUST FLIPPED MY NAME, BUT...
...DOESN'T THAT SOUND COOL?
NOT BAD, I GUESS.

AHHHHH!!
"I THINK SO"?
DID I REALLY SAY "I THINK SO"?!!
KICK
KICK


THAT WAS BASICALLY A CONFESSION...!
THEN ISN'T THERE A BETTER WAY TO HANDLE THIS THAN JOINING THE GUILD?
WAAH...
HE PROBABLY THINKS I'M A FREAK...
HE SAVED MY LIFE...!
OF COURSE I HAVE A THING FOR HIM! RIGHT?!
RIGHT! IT'S OKAY!

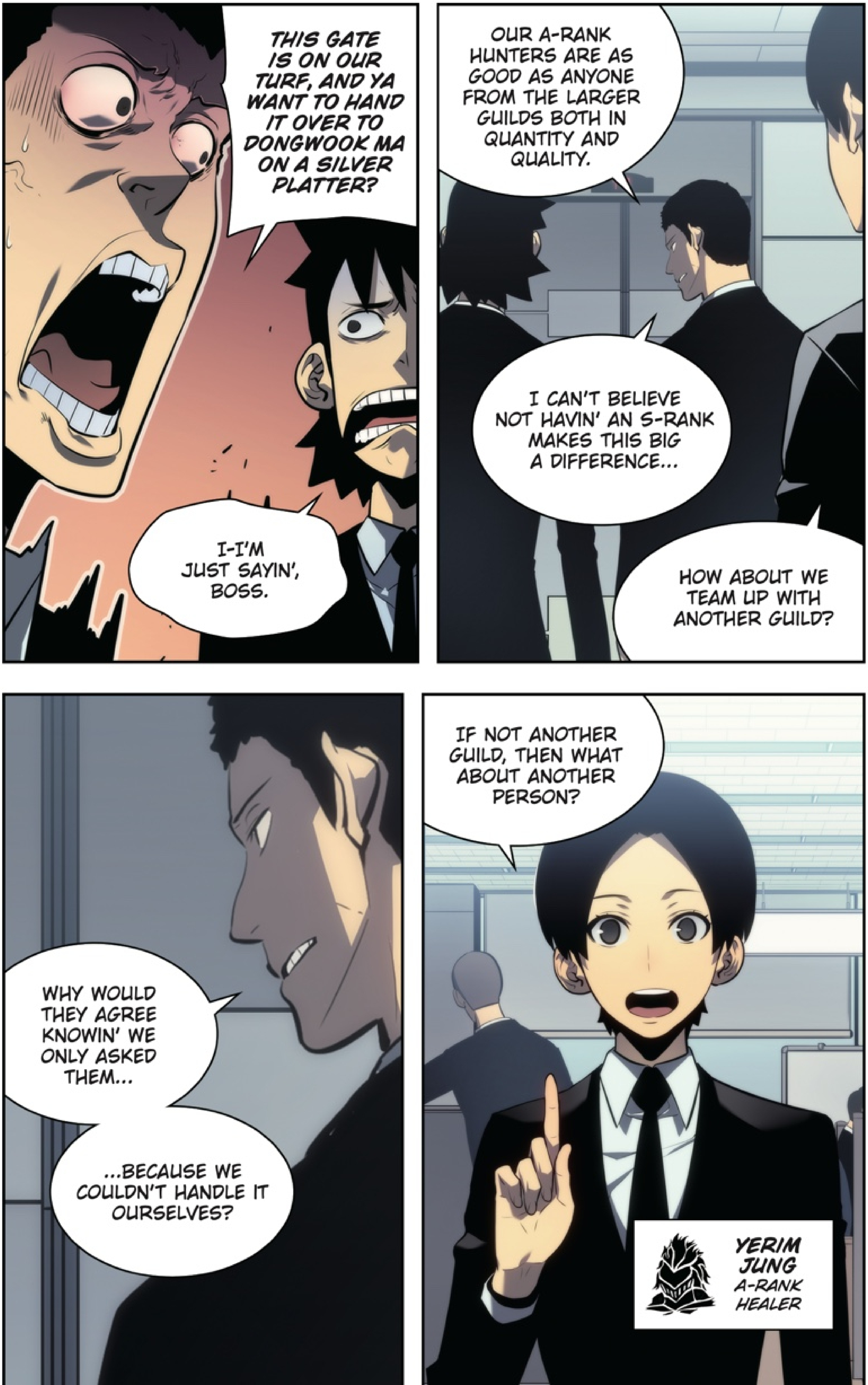
WHAT'S OKAY?!
FLAIL
NO, IT'S NOT OKAY!
FLAIL
WELL...
FSHHHHH
...I'M ALIVE BECAUSE OF HUNTER BYUNGGU MIN'S HEALING POWER.
...PLEASE TELL HIM.



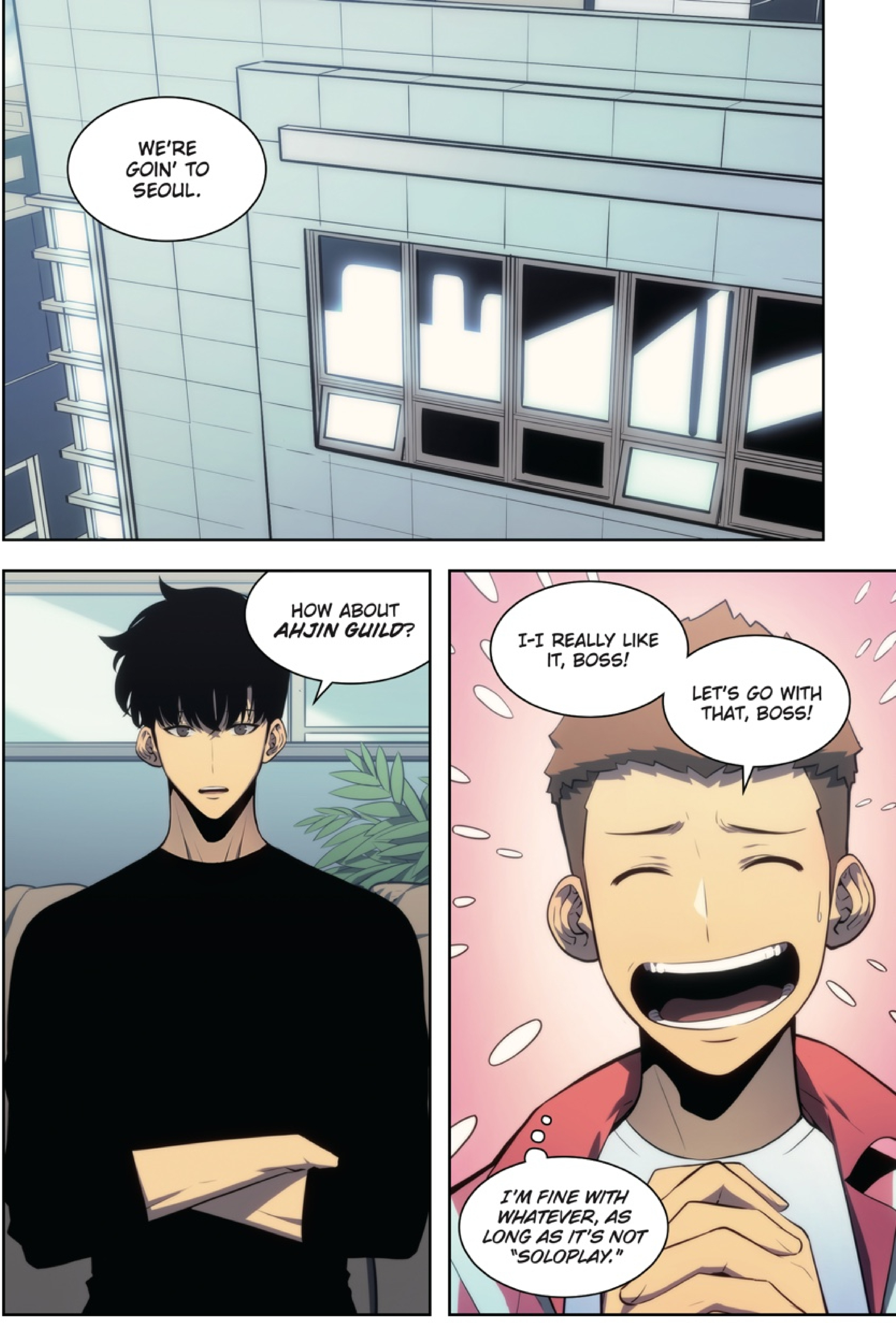
PLEASE TELL HIM THAT...
GRAB
PLEASE TELL HIM THAT HE NEEDS TO BE CAREFUL...
TELL HUNTER JINWOO SUNG...

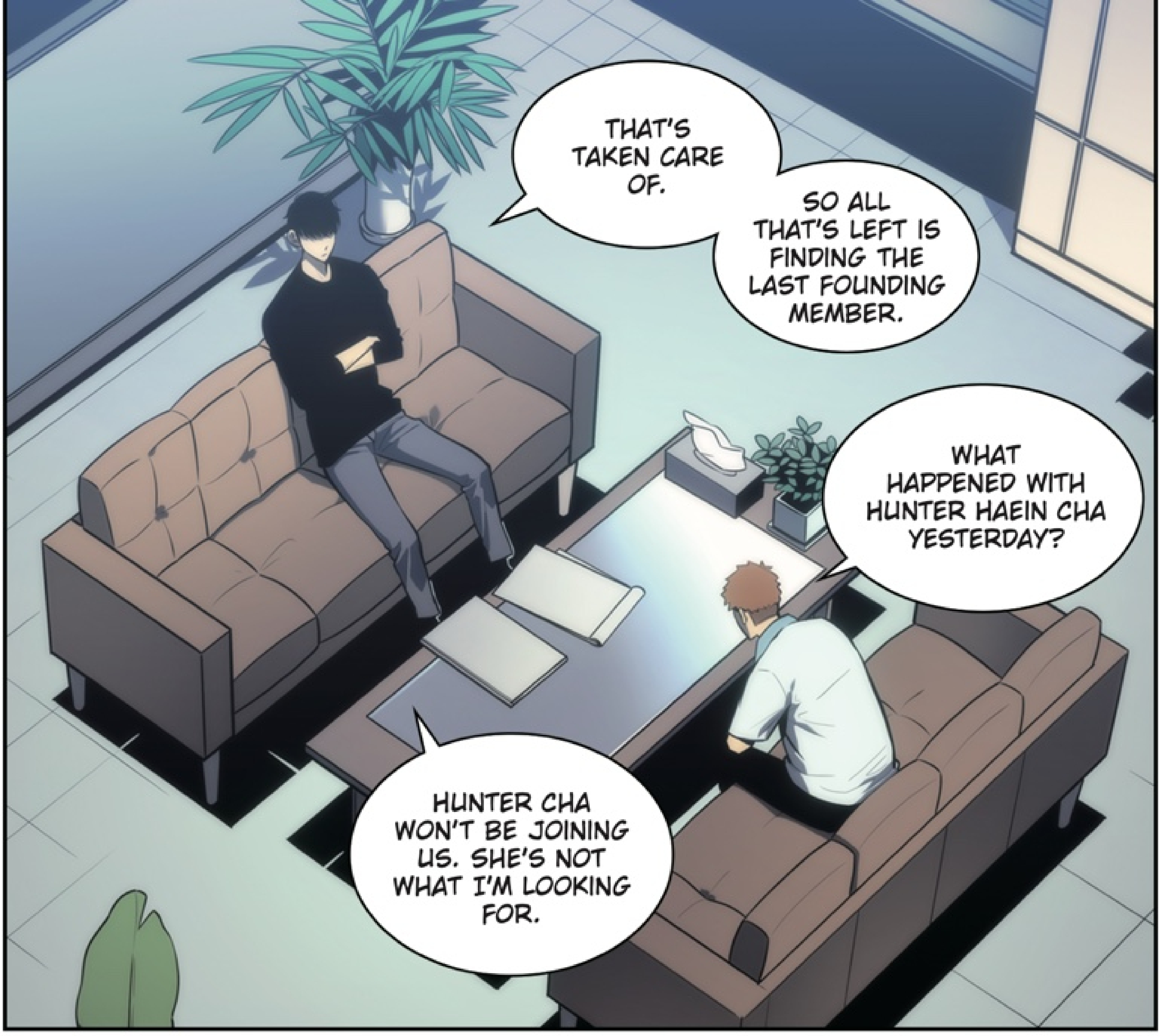
PLEASE TELL HIM THAT HE NEEDS TO BE CAREFUL OF THE POWER HE POSSESSES.
BOLT
THAT WAS...
...HUNTER BYUNGGU!

BOSS, I WAS TOLD YESTERDAY THAT IT'D BE DIFFICULT FOR US TA GET A PERMIT FOR THE GATE!
THE ASSOCIATION'S EVALUATION CAME OUT HIGHER THAN THEY EXPECTED.
'S IT AN S-RANK GATE?
NO, BUT IT'S A MAX-LEVEL A-RANK.
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS.
WE COULD ALL DIE IF WE ENTER THE GATE WITHOUT PROPER PREP.
WE CAN PASS ON S-RANK GATES EASY. BUT IT'LL BE HARD TO ORGANIZE AN A-RANK STRIKE SQUAD IN THIS CASE.
PEOPLE MAY SAY WE CAN'T HANDLE AN A-RANK GATE EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GUILDS...
THE AVERAGE PERSON THINKS ALL A-RANK GATES ARE THE SAME. THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
IF WE PASS ON THE GATE, FAME GUILD WILL TAKE IT FOR SURE...


THIS GATE IS ON OUR TURF, AND YA WANT TO HAND IT OVER TO DONGWOOK MA ON A SILVER PLATTER?
I-I'M JUST SAYIN', BOSS.
OUR A-RANK HUNTERS ARE AS GOOD AS ANYONE FROM THE LARGER GUILDS BOTH IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE NOT HAVIN' AN S-RANK MAKES THIS BIG A DIFFERENCE...
HOW ABOUT WE TEAM UP WITH ANOTHER GUILD?
WHY WOULD THEY AGREE KNOWIN' WE ONLY ASKED THEM...
...BECAUSE WE COULDN'T HANDLE IT OURSELVES?
IF NOT ANOTHER GUILD, THEN WHAT ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON?
YERIM JUNG
A-RANK HEALER

WE'RE GOING INSIDE A TOP-LEVEL A-RANK GATE. WHAT HELP WOULD AN INDIVI—?
NOW DO YOU GET IT?
YES.
YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT HUNTER SUNG.
IT'D BE EMBARRASSING TO TEAM UP WITH ANOTHER GUILD, BUT PEOPLE WILL TAKE NOTICE IF WE TEAM UP WITH HIM.
THE CHANCES OF A DANGEROUS RAID GOIN' WELL INCREASE WITH HIM INVOLVED.
WHAT IS HUNTER SUNG UP TO THESE DAYS?
NOT MUCH, APART FROM TAKIN' CARE OF A GATE HERE AND THERE.
SHOULD I LOOK UP HIS CONTACT INFO, BOSS?
NO, THAT'S OKAY. DON'T BOTHER.
WE CAN'T DO SOMETHING THIS IMPORTANT OVER THE PHONE.


WE'RE GOIN' TO SEOUL.
HOW ABOUT *AHJIN GUILD*?
I-I REALLY LIKE IT, BOSS!
LET'S GO WITH THAT, BOSS!
I'M FINE WITH WHATEVER, AS LONG AS IT'S NOT "SOLOPLAY."


THAT'S TAKEN CARE OF.
SO ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FINDING THE LAST FOUNDING MEMBER.
WHAT HAPPENED WITH HUNTER HAEIN CHA YESTERDAY?
HUNTER CHA WON'T BE JOINING US. SHE'S NOT WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.

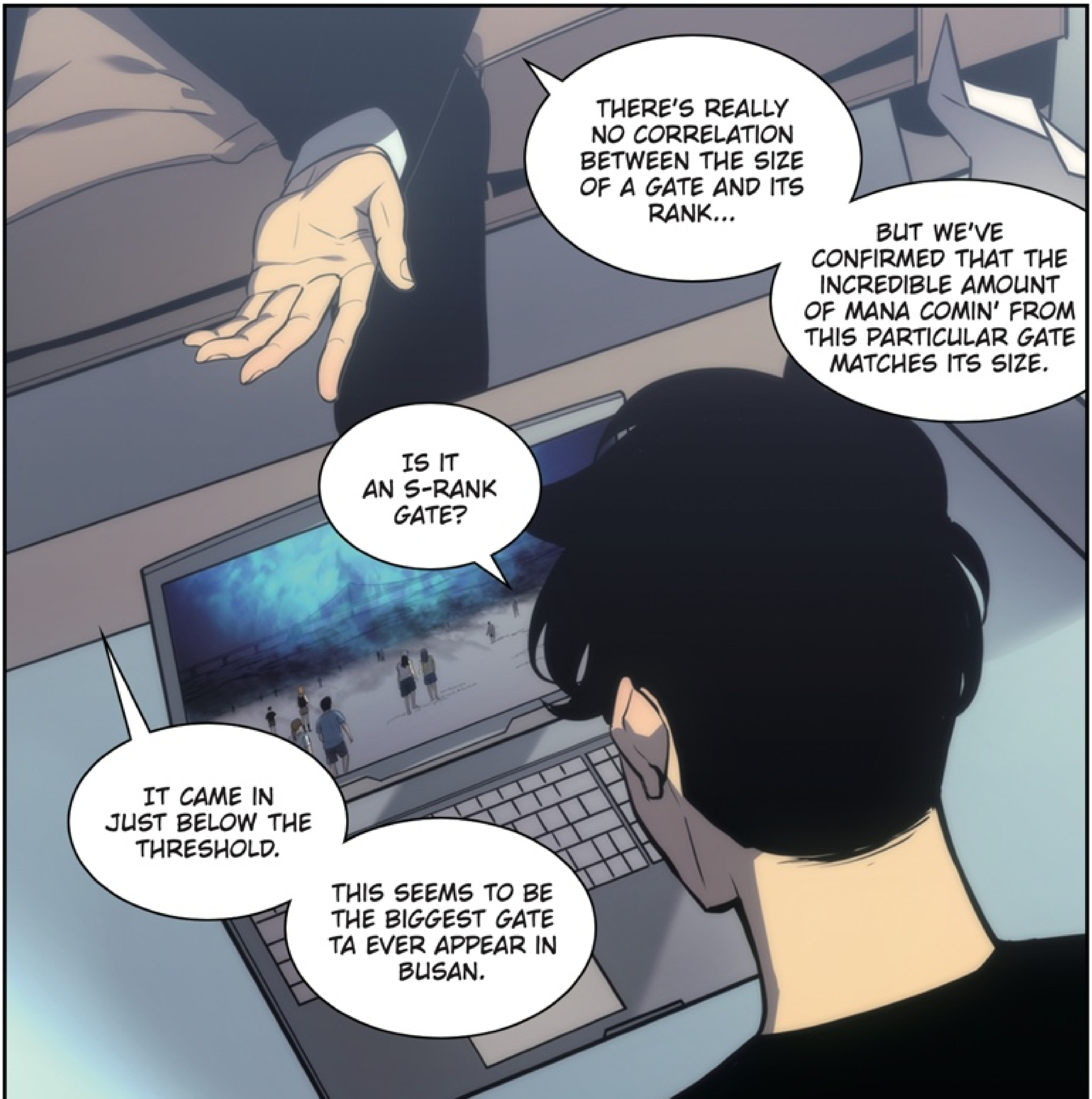
SHE'S AN S-RANK, YOUNG, EXTREMELY POWERFUL, AND GORGEOUS...
I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER FIND A BETTER CANDIDATE.
GAH...
UM, BOSS? WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

SOMEONE WITH A HUNTER'S LICENSE...
...BUT NO INTEREST IN GUILDS.
AND SOMEONE WE CAN TRUST.

I HAVE A FEW PEOPLE IN MIN—
KNOCK KNOCK
WHO IS IT?
KA-CHAK
COULD IT BE HUNTER CHA AGAIN?
HELLO.
I'M JONGSU PARK, GUILD MASTER OF KNIGHTS.
......

Over there! Look! Are ya filmin' this?

Whoa, 's that for real?
How can a gate be so big?

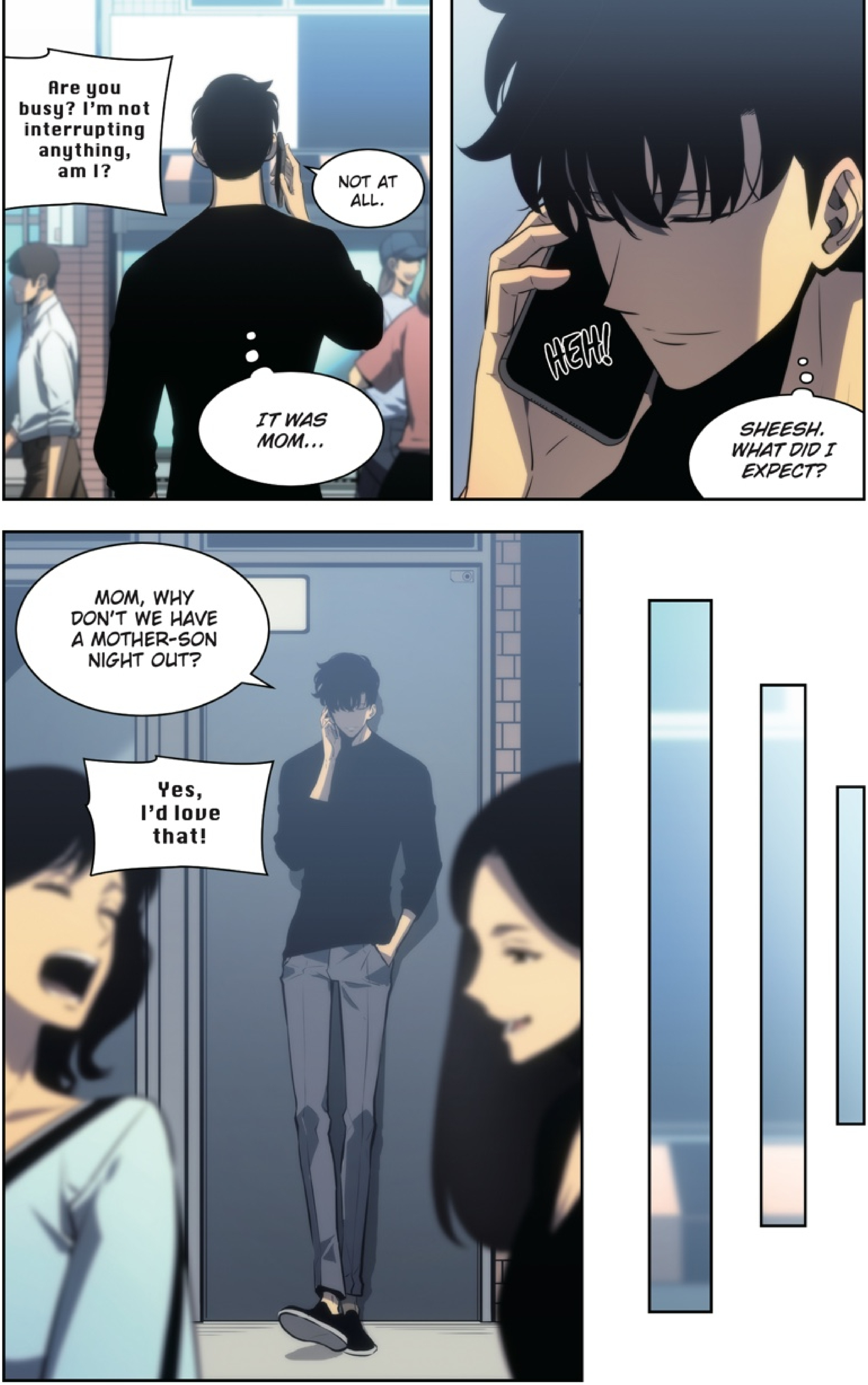

THERE'S REALLY NO CORRELATION BETWEEN THE SIZE OF A GATE AND ITS RANK...
BUT WE'VE CONFIRMED THAT THE INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF MANA COMIN' FROM THIS PARTICULAR GATE MATCHES ITS SIZE.
IS IT AN S-RANK GATE?
IT CAME IN JUST BELOW THE THRESHOLD.
THIS SEEMS TO BE THE BIGGEST GATE TA EVER APPEAR IN BUSAN.

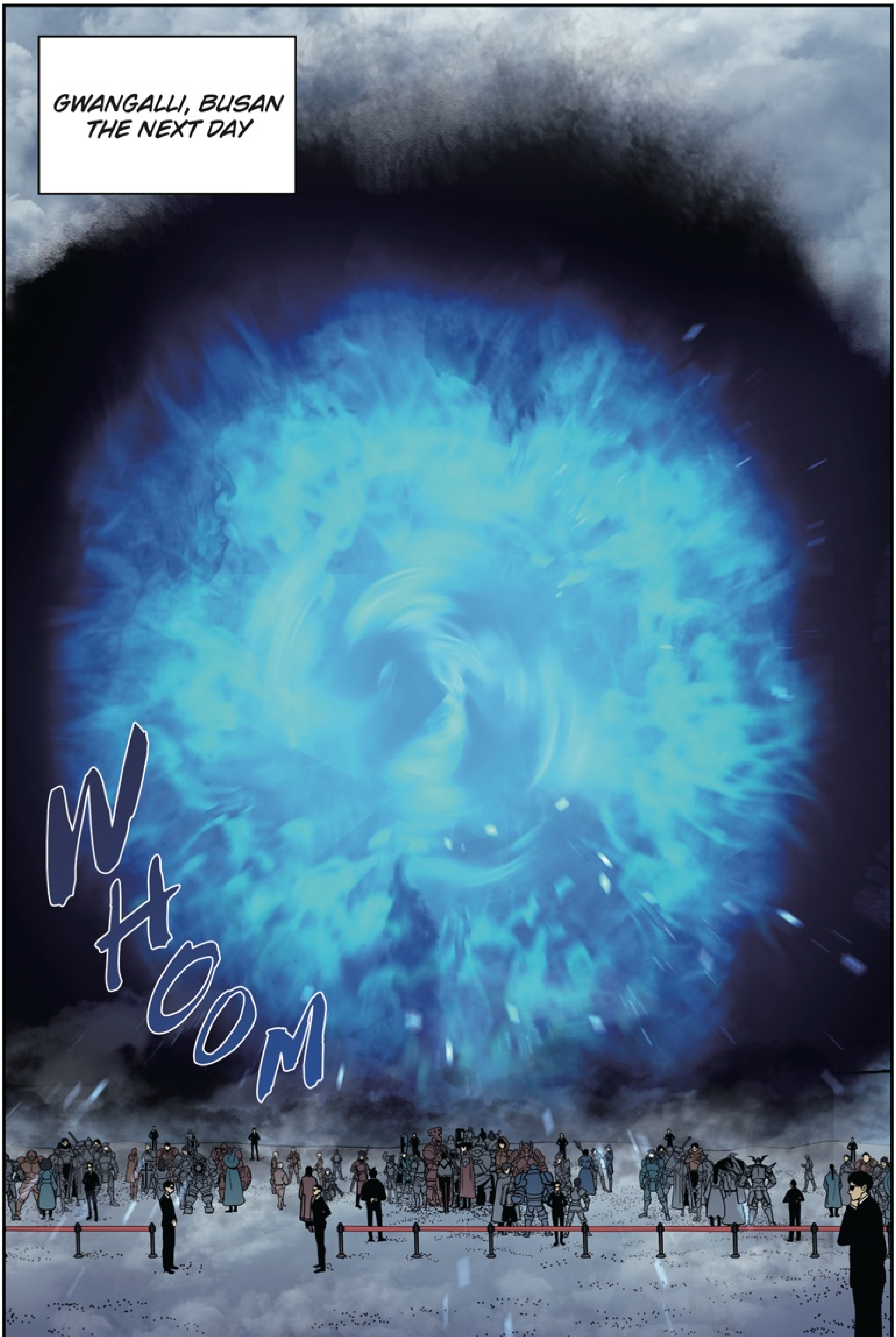
BUSAN...
SHOULD I MEET UP WITH JOOHEE AND TAKE HER OUT FOR FRESH FISH?
AS YOU CAN SEE...
...THE ASSOCIATION DOESN'T WANT TA GIVE US THE PERMIT.
WE HAVE NO S-RANK HUNTERS IN OUR GUILD, SO THE ASSOCIATION DOESN'T TRUST US TA HANDLE THE GATE.
IF YA JOIN OUR STRIKE SQUAD THIS ONE TIME, HUNTER SUNG, WE CAN DO THIS RAID.
WOULD HE... GIVE ME AN AUTOGRAPH IF I ASKED?
OF COURSE, WE WOULD GIVE YA PROPER COMPENSATION.
WHEN A LARGE GUILD RAIDS A DUNGEON, AN S-RANK HUNTER RECEIVES AROUND TEN PERCENT.
BUT WE'LL GIVE YA TWENTY PERCENT OF THE PROFITS.
FIFTY-FIFTY.

PARDON ME?
IF YOU TREAT ME AS A GUILD AND NOT A PERSON, I'LL COOPERATE.
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF ESTABLISHING A GUILD NAMED AHJIN AS WELL.
HOW ABOUT FORTY-SIX—
I'M NOT TRYING TO NEGOTIATE WITH KNIGHTS GUILD.

THIS GUY...IS YOUNG, BUT HE ISN'T EASY.
WE WILL ACCEPT THESE TERMS.
BUT IN RETURN, CAN WE LEAVE THE MAGIC BEAST BOSS TO YA?
I'LL DO THAT.
THE GATE WAS DISCOVERED A WHILE AGO, SO WE SHOULD GET THE RAID STARTED TOMORROW.
WHY DON'CHA RIDE DOWN WITH US?
I HAVE AN ERRAND TO RUN THIS EVENING, UNFORTUNATELY.
I'LL BE THERE ON TIME.
HUH? THAT SHADOW JUST MOVED!
YOONTAE... HAVE YA BEEN DRINKIN'?

VRRR
WHO IS THIS?
EXCUSE ME. I NEED TO ANSWER THIS.
PLEASE, GO AHEAD.
010-xxxx-2341
HELLO?
Hello, dear.
MOM?
DID YOU BUY A CELL PHONE?
Yes, I called because I had a sudden desire to hear my son's voice as soon as I bought it.


Are you busy? I'm not interrupting anything, am I?
NOT AT ALL.
IT WAS MOM...
HEH!
SHEESH. WHAT DID I EXPECT?
MOM, WHY DON'T WE HAVE A MOTHER-SON NIGHT OUT?
Yes, I'd love that!


GWANGALLI, BUSAN
THE NEXT DAY
WHOOM

DAMN IT, I SHOULD'VE JUST MADE HIM COME WITH US YESTERDAY.
HE WON'T BE LATE, WILL HE?

11:00
ress finger to unl
DAMN... WE HAVETA LEAVE IN FIVE MINUTES...

1 가 2

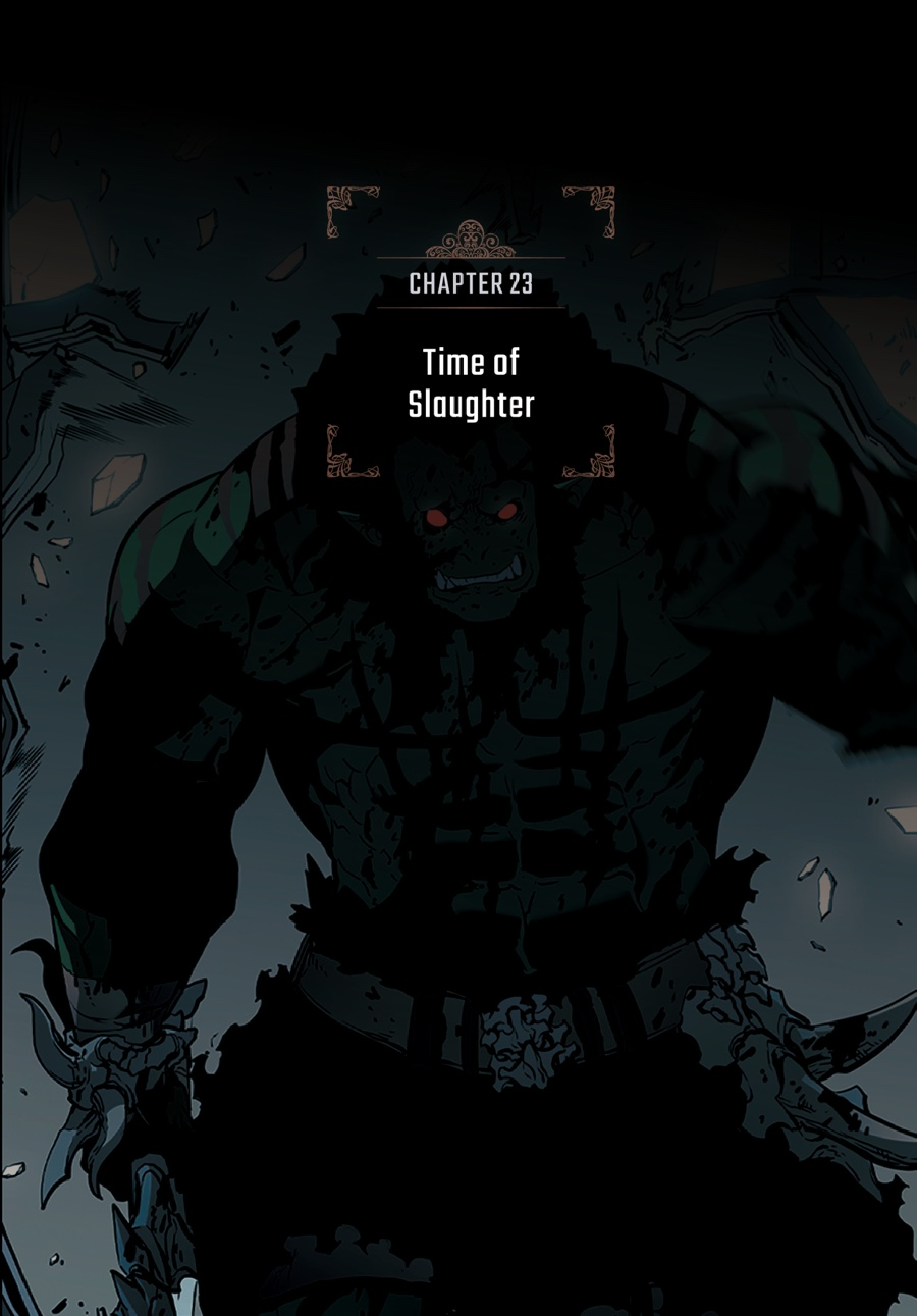
THE WEATHER ISN'T GREAT.
RUMBLE
DID JINAH TAKE AN UMBRELLA?
I SHOULD GET GOING...
SHADOW EXCHANGE.

ISN'T THIS FORCED LABOR?
YEAH.
WHY ARE WE DOING HIS JOB FOR HIM?
HOW MANY STATUES DID HE ASK FOR AGAIN?
I'M GUESSING SIX, SINCE THERE ARE SIX GROUPS.
COME ON... EVEN IF WE EACH CARRY ONE AT A TIME, WE'LL STILL HAVE TO MAKE TWO TRIPS.
WHY DON'T YOU CARRY FOUR, THEN?
OOF, SO DUSTY.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME SOMEONE ACTUALLY CLEANED THIS PLACE?
BLEH.
NO ONE USES IT EVEN DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

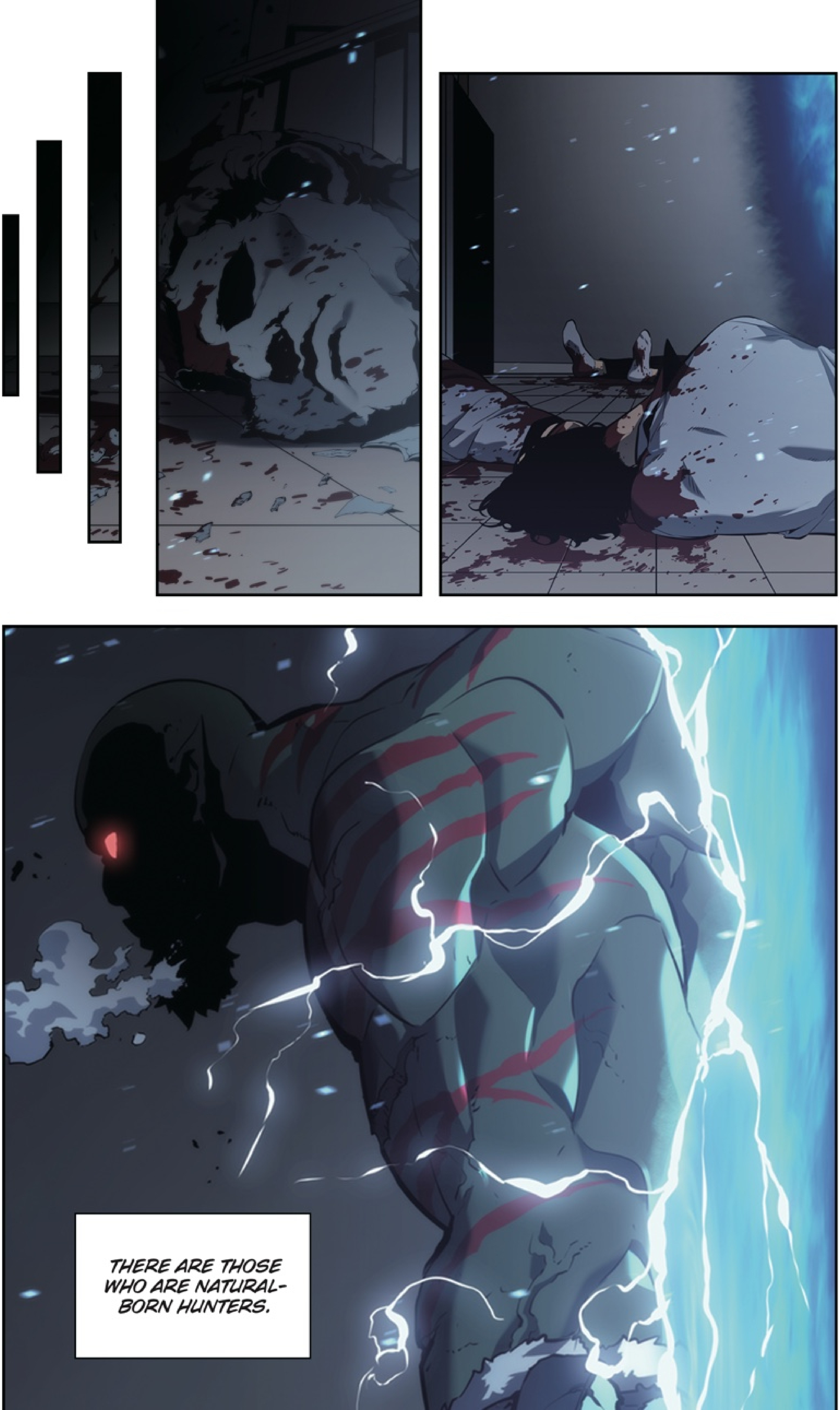
I-IS THAT...
...A GATE?
IT'S NO BIG DEAL. IT'S A CLOSED GATE, SO IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE.
NO ONE CAN GO IN EXCEPT HUNTERS, AND NOTHING CAN COME OUT.
IT'LL PROBABLY TAKE ANOTHER WEEK FOR IT TO OPEN.
BUT YOU SAID NO ONE'S BEEN HERE ALL YEAR.
EVEN IF THIS GATE WAS JUST DISCOVERED...
KRAK

GRAB
SMACK
SMACK
AAAH!
JOONSUK!!
STRUGGLE
TWITCH
TWITCH
H-HELP!
HURRY...!

CRUSH
JOONSUK!!


CHAPTER 23
Time of
Slaughter

Solo Leveling


THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE NATURAL-BORN HUNTERS.

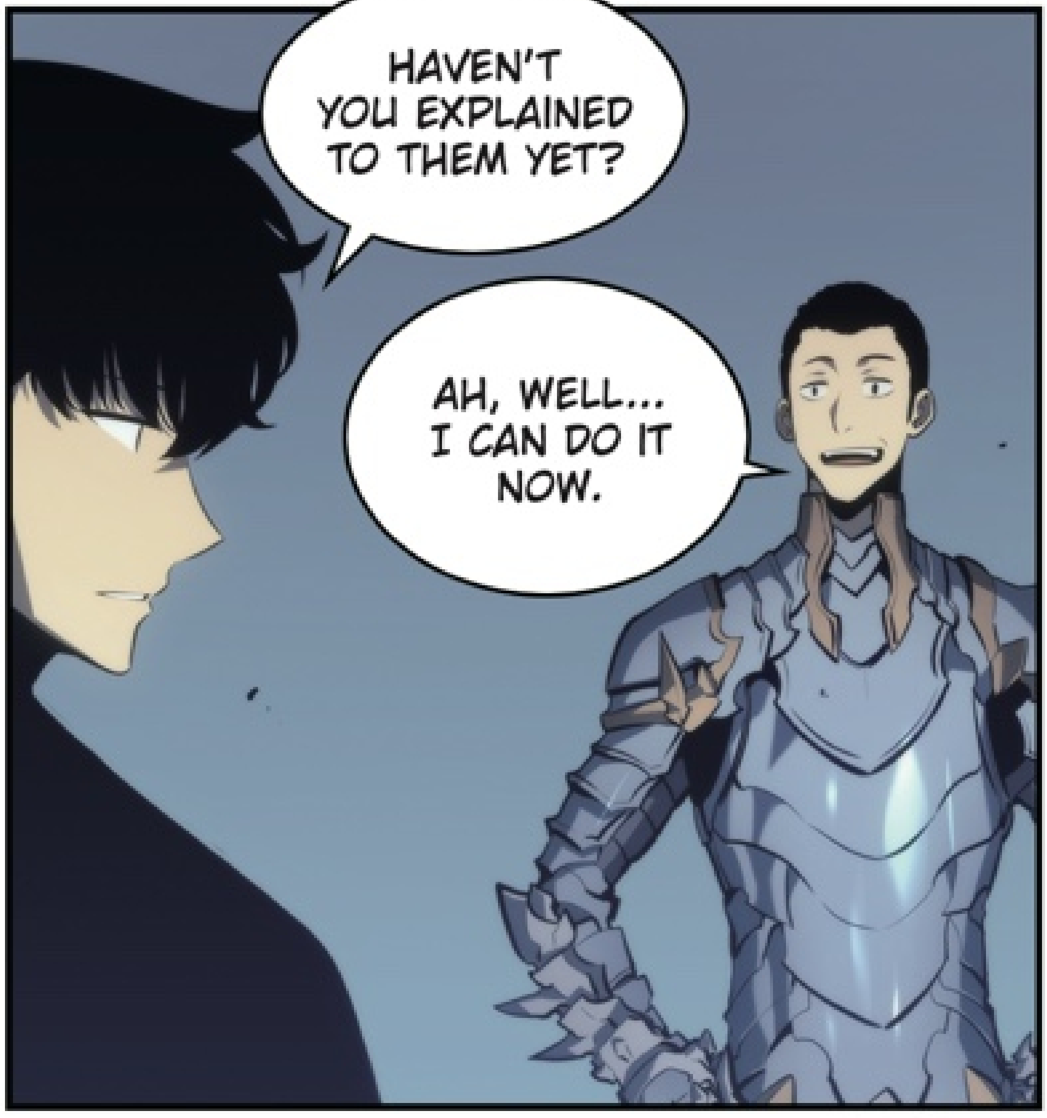
ALTHOUGH THEIR INTELLIGENCE LEVEL IS BELOW THAT OF HUMANS...
...THEY ARE FAR SUPERIOR AT TRACKING AND HUNTING WEAKER PREY.
SNIFF SNIFF
THE SMELL OF FLESH AND BLOOD DRIVES THEM ON.
HOWEVER, THIS GROUP WAS JUST THE RECONNAISSANCE TEAM.
THEY SUPPRESSED THEIR NATURE AND FOCUSED ON THEIR TASK.
THE ORCS HAD BEEN HOLDING THEIR BREATH FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK AS THEY SAT IN THE DARKNESS OF THE DUNGEON.
THEIR SIXTH SENSE INFORMED THEM EVEN BEFORE THEY FOCUSED ON A SEARCH.
THE BUILDING IS FILLED WITH PREY.

ONE FLOOR UP, THEN ONE MORE, AND MORE BEYOND THAT.
THIS PLACE HAS A COMPLEX STRUCTURE SIMILAR TO OUR CASTLE.
WE WILL HUNT FIRST.
BRING FORTH OUR BROTHERS!
KILL ALL THE HUMANS WITHIN THIS CASTLE, MAKE IT OUR FORTRESS...
...AND THEN GO FORTH AND HUNT.
BANG
WE'LL START BY CLEARING OUT THE INSIDE OF THIS BUILDING.

BOUGHT THIS FOR YOU.
THANKS.
STOMP
HUH?
SHOOM

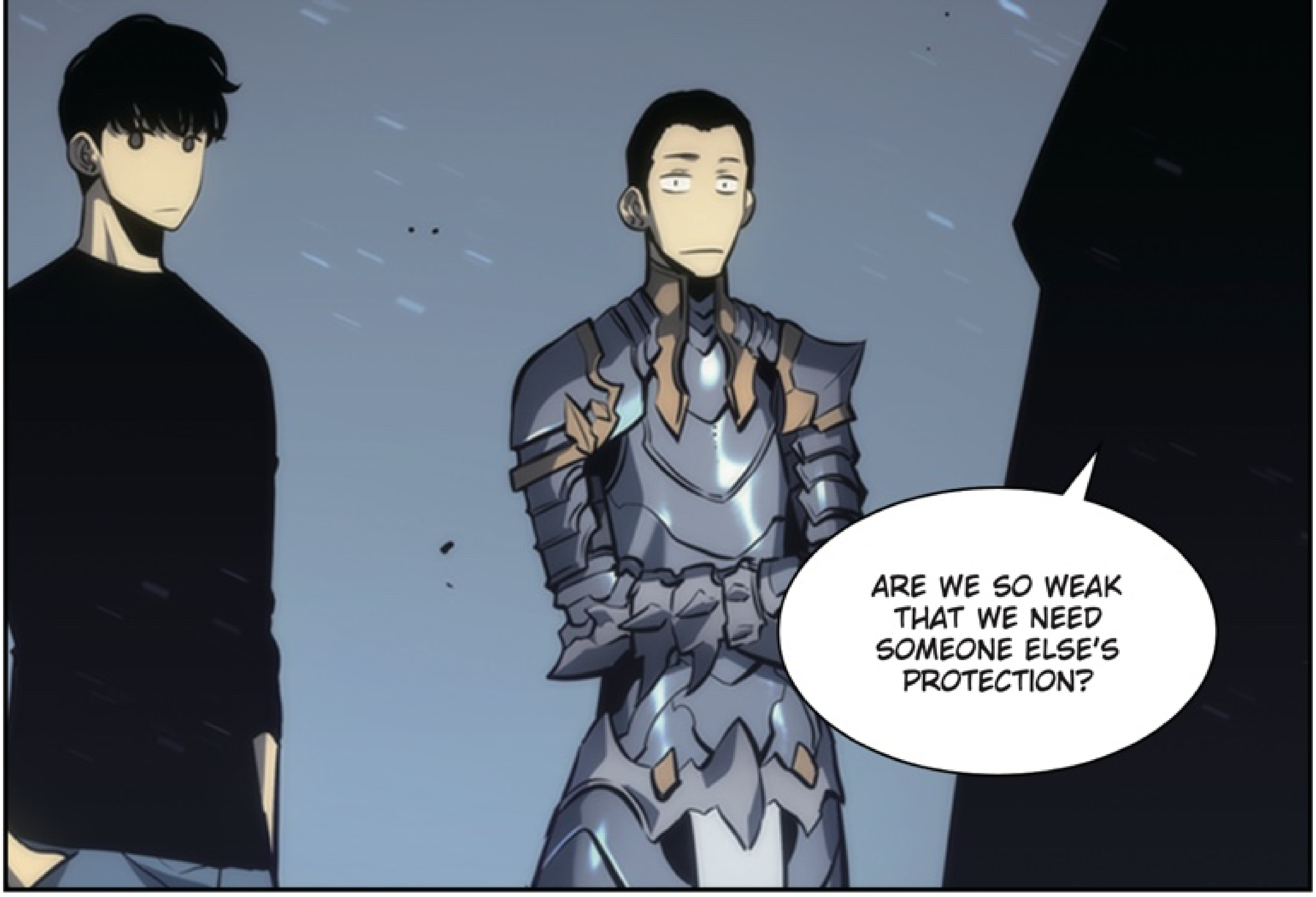
......
IT'S BIGGER THAN I THOUGHT.
THAT'S THE COLLECTION TEAM.
THE EXCAVATION TEAM IS ON THE OTHER SIDE.
AND THE STRIKE SQUAD IS...
THIRTEEN A-RANK AND TWENTY B-RANK HUNTERS.
THEY HAVE THIS MANY A-RANK HUNTERS?
RIGHT, THEY'RE THE GUILD WITH THE MOST A-RANK HUNTERS IN THE COUNTRY.
UMM...

HUNTER SUNG, THE JEJU ISLAND RAID WAS TRULY AMAZIN'!
HOW DO YA SUMMON THOSE SOLDIERS IN BLACK?
CAN YA BE SURE THEY'RE ACTUALLY MINIONS?
YOU'RE GOING TO LEAD TODAY'S RAID, AREN'TCHA?
OKAY, STOP! STOP!
SHF
YOU'VE MADE HUNTER SUNG UNCOMFORT-ABLE!
I'M YERIM JUNG, THE MAIN HEALER OF THE ELITE STRIKE SQUAD OF KNIGHTS GUILD.
AT THE VERY LEAST, I THINK THE LEADER AND THE MAIN HEALER OF THE TEAM SHOULD GET ALONG, DON'T YOU?


HAVEN'T YOU EXPLAINED TO THEM YET?
AH, WELL... I CAN DO IT NOW.

I, JONGSU PARK, WILL BE THE LEADER OF THIS RAID.

THE PRESIDENT AGAIN?
BUT HUNTER SUNG IS HERE...
UHH... THAT'S NOT...
HUNTER JINWOO SUNG WILL BE IN CHARGE OF OUR SAFETY AND GUARD OUR REAR.


ARE WE SO WEAK THAT WE NEED SOMEONE ELSE'S PROTECTION?

MR. JINWOO SUNG, DO THE ELITE MEMBERS OF THE KNIGHTS GUILD SEEM THAT WEAK TO YOU?
IS THAT NOT SO, EVERYONE?
GAH...!
S-STOP!

HE MAY COME ACROSS AS A BIT RUDE, BUT THIS IS HOW OUR GUILD IS.
WE HAVE BRAVE HUNTERS THOUGH, NO?
IT SEEMS THAT THEY ARE VERY CONFIDENT.

WE SHOULD GET GOIN'.

IT'S SHOWTIME!
LET'S START THE RAID!

THIS IS THE EMERGENCY CENTER OF THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION.
I-is this the Asso-ciation?!
YES, IT IS. PLEASE STATE YOUR EMERGENCY.
I'm a-a-at...
...my school...
THERE ARE... MONSTERS OUTSIDE!
OUTSIDE?
A DUNGEON BREAK?
IN USE
Where are you right now?

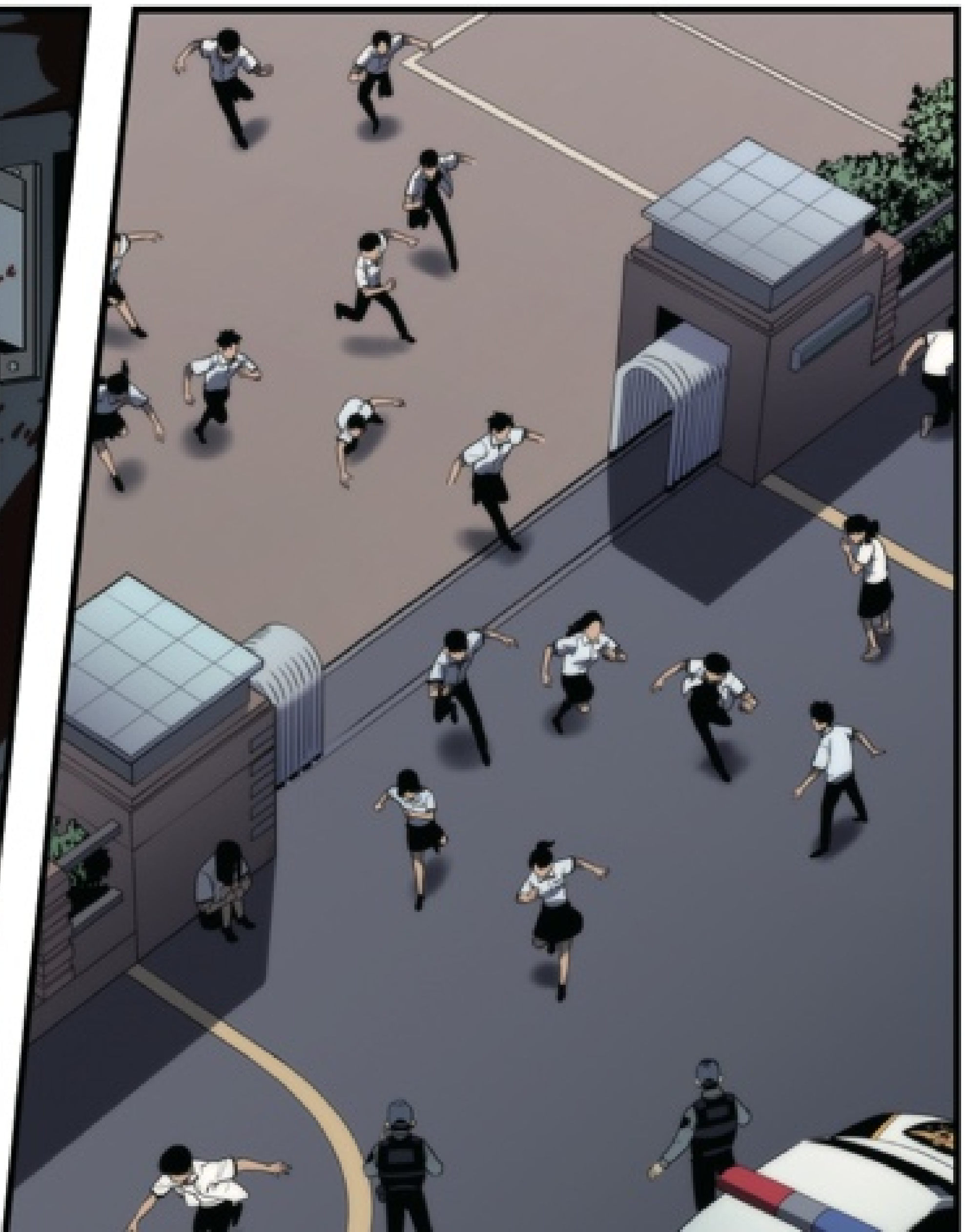
I'M HIDING IN THE BATHROOM...
I WAS WITH MY FRIEND... BUT...BUT MY FRIEND WAS...
How many monsters are there?
Are they nearby?
SOB
I don't— I don't know.
Th-there are too many screams.
Aaanh... Nn...Gh...
Am I g-going to die?
CALM DOWN AND LISTEN TO ME.
HUNTERS FROM THE ASSOCIATION ARE ON THEIR WAY NOW.
THEY WILL DO THEIR UTMOST TO SAVE YOU.
SO YOU MUST KEEP CALM UNTIL THEY GET THERE.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

REALLY?
TH-THEN, I'M NOT GOING TO DIE?
By any chance... do you know what kind of magic beasts they are?
Yes, yes, I...I know. I've seen them on TV.
Uh...what were they called...?
PLEASE DESCRIBE THEIR APPEARANCE.
WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?
Th-their body looks like a human's...
...but they have ugly faces.
Oh, they're green.
Their skin is green.
COULD IT BE?!

Are...are you talking about orcs?
YES, THAT WAS THE NAME. ORCS.
STOMP
NO!!
GET OUT OF THERE AND RUN! RIGHT NOW!!
ORCS CAN SMEL—
AIEEEEEE! HELP ME!
I DON'T WANNA DIE!!
HELP ME!
PLEASE HELP ME!!

AAAAH!
EEEEK!

3-2
GYAAH!



MY FRIENDS ARE STILL INSIDE THE SCHOOL...!
HUNTERS WILL HELP THEM! WE NEED TO RUN AWAY!!
DRIP
DRIP
CAN'T BELIEVE HALF OF OUR PREY RAN AWAY.
THAT'S OKAY. THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF THEM LEFT.
THE RETREAT IS CUT OFF.
WE'RE GOING UP ONE MORE FLOOR.
KILL THEM ALL.

NNGH...
BLAM
AAAAAH!!
EEYAAH!!

CRUMBLE
DAAASH
A-ARGH!

SHUK

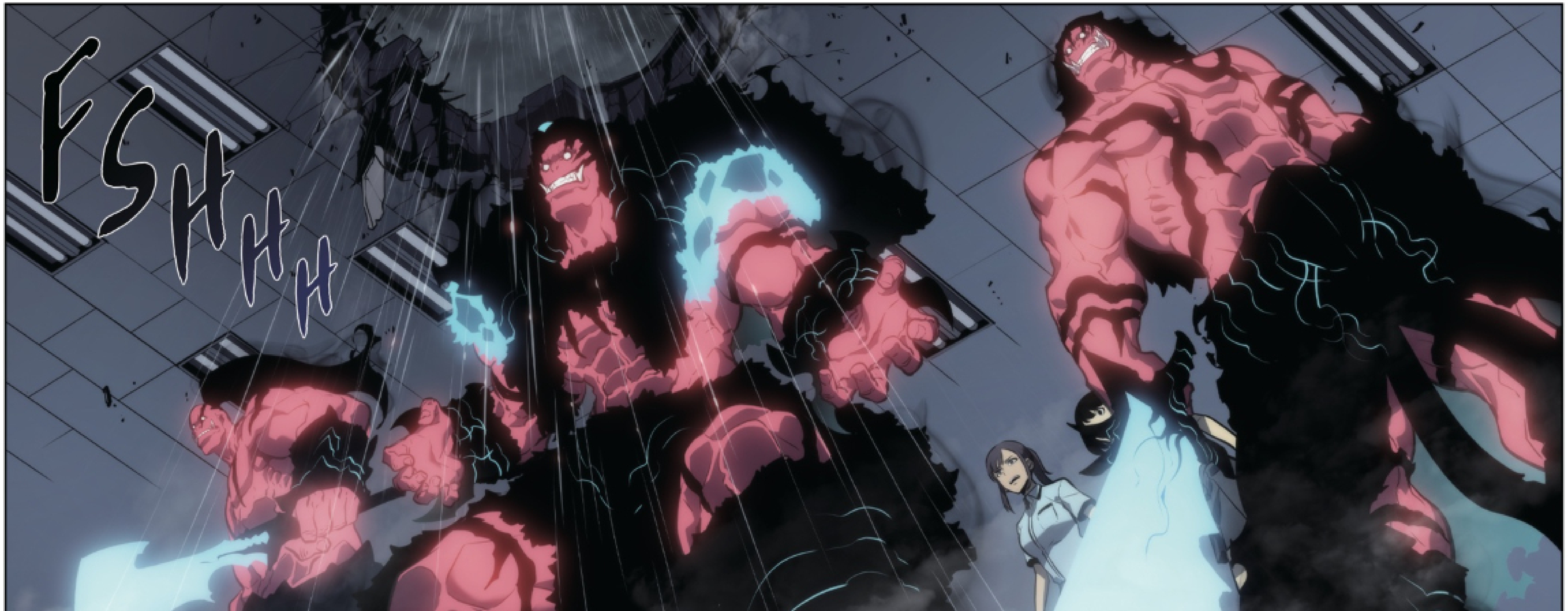
SIR, I SENSE A HUMAN WITH MAGIC POWER.
KILL IT FIRST.
JINWOO...!
JINWOO...!!

NO!
I'M AN AWAKENED BEING TOO.
ALTHOUGH I'M JUST AN E-RANK...
I SAID, NO!
IS THAT HER?
NO.
I CAN SENSE GREAT MAGIC POWER...
...NEXT TO HER.

THIS SMELL IS COMING FROM HER!
DIE!
WHISH
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

GRAB
JINWOO?
JINWOO IS...
WHACK

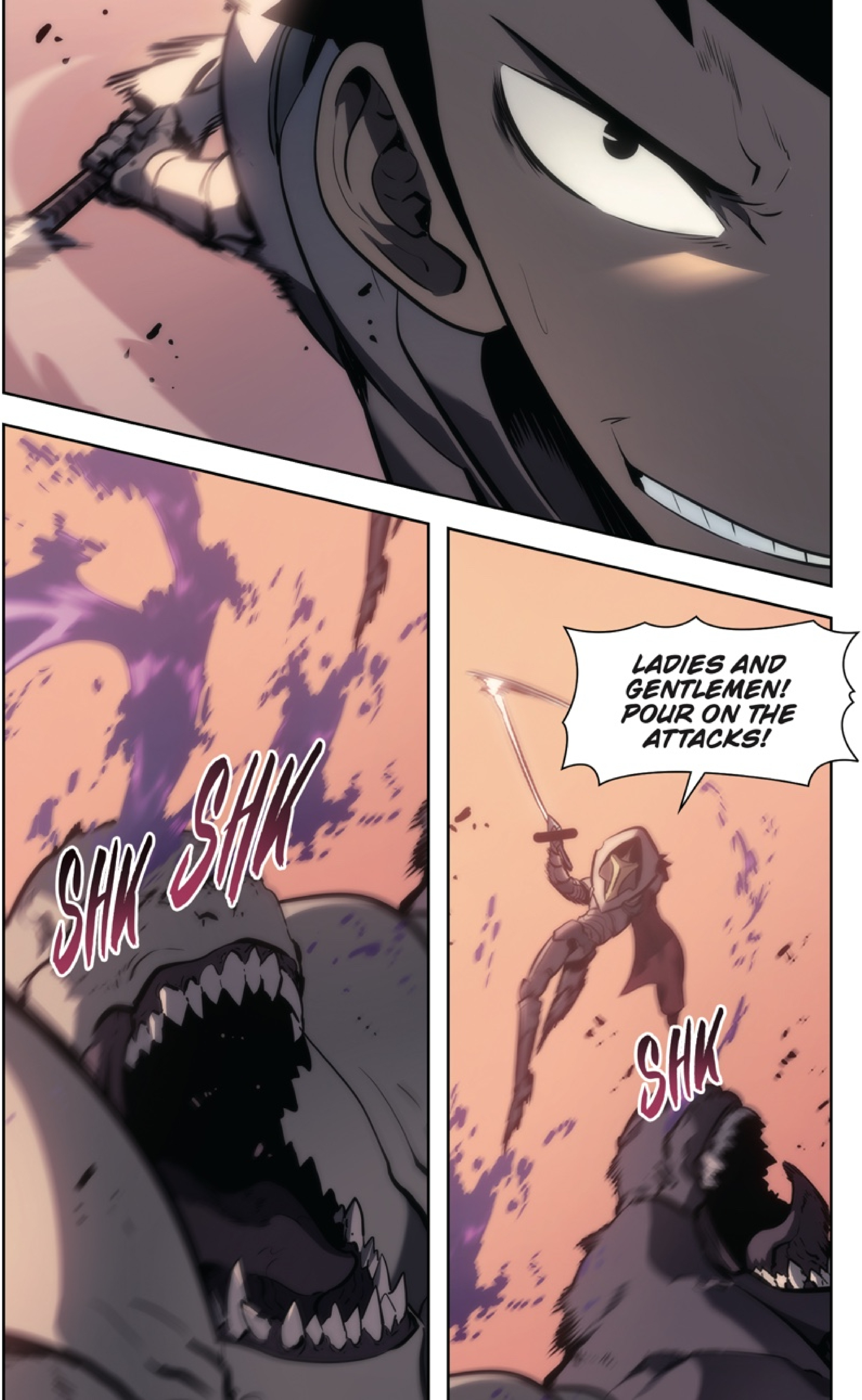
BOOM


FSHHH

You have entered a dungeon.
A TWO-HEADED OGRE!
IT'S AN OGRE!!
EVERYONE, WATCH OUT!

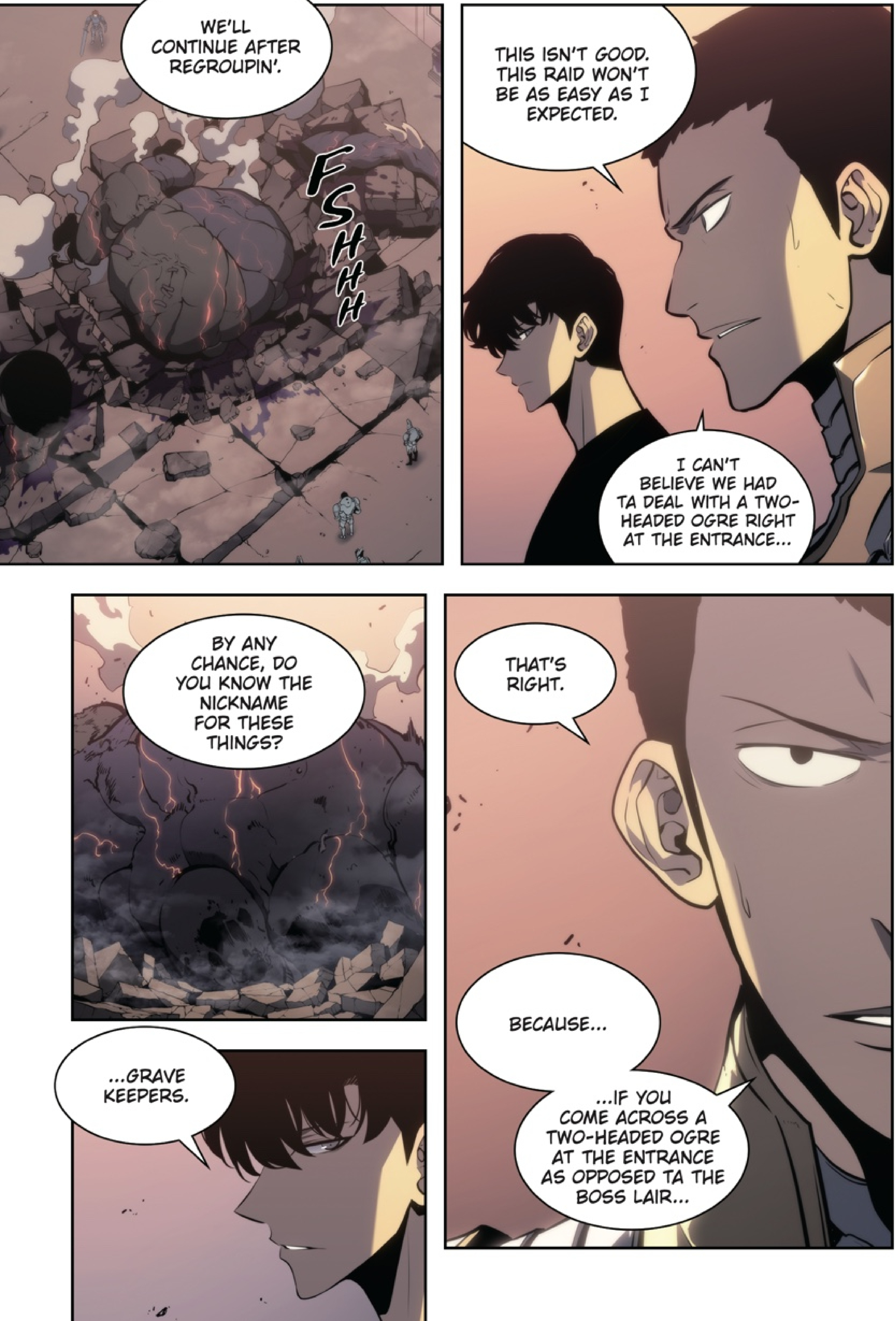
GRRAAAH!!
WHO
OSH
FLASH
WHOOM

HWISH
KA
BOOM
YOONTAE!
YES, SIR!
I'M GOING IN FIRST!
DAAAASH


SHK SHK
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! POUR ON THE ATTACKS!
SHK

RUSH
GUH... GAAAAH!
SLASH
SHK SHK
SHK

ZZZZT
FWOOOOSH
WHUD


WE'LL CONTINUE AFTER REGROUPIN'.
FSHHH
THIS ISN'T GOOD. THIS RAID WON'T BE AS EASY AS I EXPECTED.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE HAD TA DEAL WITH A TWO-HEADED OGRE RIGHT AT THE ENTRANCE...
BY ANY CHANCE, DO YOU KNOW THE NICKNAME FOR THESE THINGS?
THAT'S RIGHT.
BECAUSE...
...IF YOU COME ACROSS A TWO-HEADED OGRE AT THE ENTRANCE AS OPPOSED TA THE BOSS LAIR...
...GRAVE KEEPERS.

IT MEANS THE DUNGEON IS FILLED WITH THE UNDEAD.
WELL, PEOPLE DO SAY WORDS CAN BRING DISASTER! THE UNDEAD REALLY DID SHOW UP!
BOSS, WHAT SHOULD WE DO? DO WE ATTACK THEM?
WAVER
WAVER

ISN'T THIS WEIRD?
WHY DO THEY KEEP RUNNIN' AWAY FROM US?
DON'T THEY USUALLY ATTACK PEOPLE RIGHT AWAY?
DOESN'T IT SEEM AS IF THEY'RE BEING CHASED BY SOMETHING?
I HAD HIGH HOPES FOR THIS A-RANK DUNGEON, BUT...
THIS FEELING...!
IS THIS...?

SOMETHING URGENT'S COME UP, SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE OFF.
SORRY? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IF YA LEAVE, YOU POTENTIALLY ENDANGER THE REST OF US.
YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, RIGHT?
...HOW ABOUT THIS, THEN?
I'LL SUMMON SOMEONE AS RELIABLE AS I AM.
HE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
VMM
UH... UHHH!
IS THAT...?!!

H-HUNTER SUNG, ISN'T THAT THE MONSTER ANT FROM JEJU ISLAND?!
SINCE YOU RECOGNIZE HIM, I DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN.
HE'LL BE TAKING OVER FOR ME.
PROTECT THE HUMANS.
WHAT SHALL I DO WITH THE NONHUMANS, MY KING?
DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
SKRAAAAAAAHH!

W-WE'RE...
...SUPPOSED TO DO THE RAID WITH THIS BEAST?
DUDE... WEREN'TCHA BEING RUDE TO THIS GUY EARLIER?
THESE ARE THE SOLDIERS WHO WILL HELP YOU.
TWENTY SHOULD BE ENOUGH, RIGHT?
P-PLEASE, WAIT!
YOU'RE LEAVIN'?
AFTER LETTIN' THESE BEASTS LOOSE?
IF YOU WANT, I CAN CALL BACK MY MINIONS. BUT...
...IT'LL BE BETTER FOR YOU IF THEY STAY.
CHILL
R-RIGHT...

HOW LONG DO I HAVE UNTIL THE COOLING-OFF PERIOD IS OVER?
PING!
SKILL
[Skill: Shadow Exchange Lv. 1]
Job-exclusive skill.
No mana required.
You may use the skill in 01:42:16.
DAMN IT... WHY NOW?!
H-HUNTER SUNG!
ZOOM
HE'S REALLY GONE.
BOSS... WHAT NOW?
HANG ON, I NEED TA THINK.

THE SOLDIERS I LEFT WITH JINAH ARE CONTINUOUSLY SENDING SIGNALS.
I HAVE AN OMINOUS FEELING.
GET OUT...

...OF MY WAY!!

WHUMP

!!
TMP

......?
...WHAT'S GOING ON?
IS IT BECAUSE I'M A NECROMANCER WITH AN ADVANCED JOB CLASS WITH THE POWER TO CONTROL THE UNDEAD?
KAISEL!
TMP

VMMMM
WHOOSH
WOW!
LOOK AT THAT!

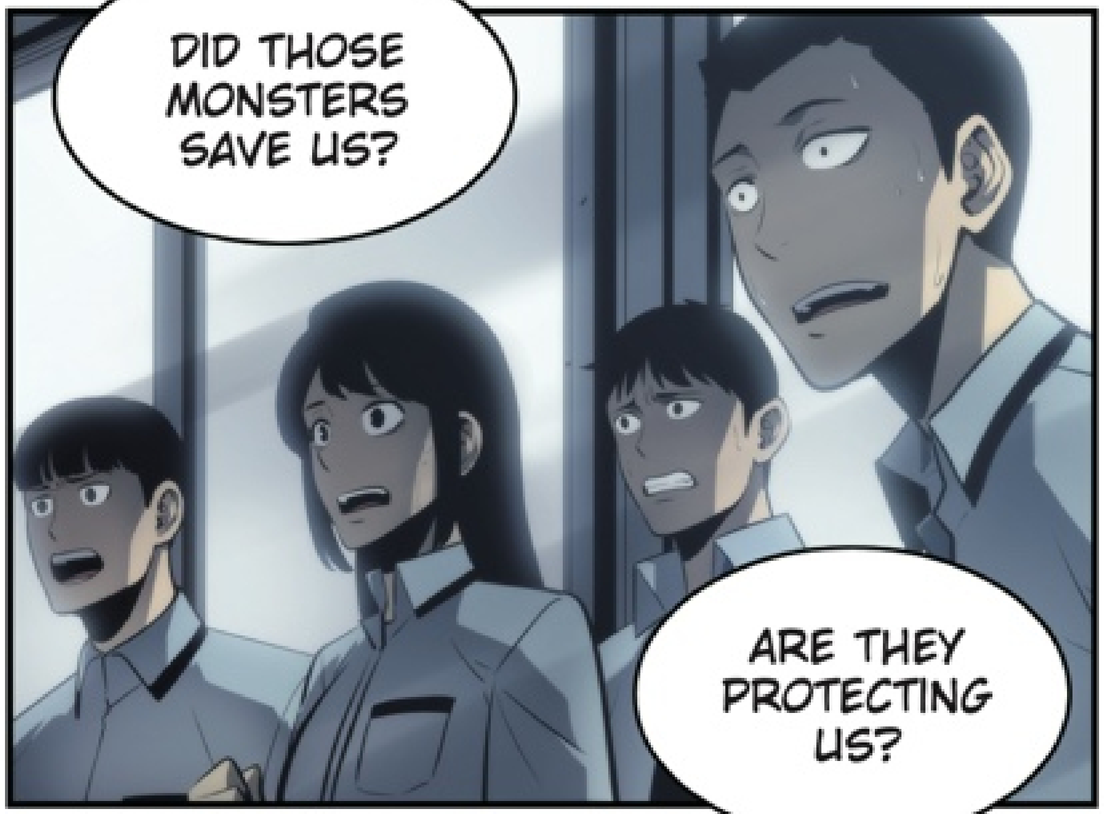
THAT'S JINWOO SUNG!
WHOOSH
FLAP

TO MY SISTER...

...AS FAST AS YOU CAN!
KREEEE!
SKILL
[Skill: Monarch's Domain Lv. 1]
Job-exclusive skill.
No mana required.
Abilities of all shadow soldiers fighting on the surface of your shadow will increase by 50%.

SHHK

GRIP
GRAB
WHAM


DID THOSE MONSTERS SAVE US?
ARE THEY PROTECTING US?

IS MY BROTHER HERE...?
BRO!
SHF

STOMP
STOMP

KRAK

KRAAASH
THE FINAL PERIL WAS UNLEASHED.
I AM GROCTAR, CHIEF OF THE RED BLADE TRIBE.
EVERYTHING IN MY WAY HAS BEEN ELIMINATED.
GROCTAR! HIGH ORC WARRIORS ARE AIDING THE HUMANS!
HIGH ORCS? HOW MANY?
THREE.
HOW COULD TENS OF WARRIORS FROM THE GREAT ORC TRIBE STRUGGLE AGAINST THREE DAMN HIGH ORCS?
HOW PATHETIC...
LEAD THE WAY.

IT'S TIME FOR SLAUGHTER.

SKITTER
KREE!
SKRAH!
I'M GETTIN' OUT OF HERE...
IF THEY SHOW EVEN AN OUNCE OF HOSTILITY TOWARD US...
WE CAN'T GIVE UP THE RAID HERE...
HOW WOULD I EXPLAIN THAT TA THE REPORTERS WAITIN' OUTSIDE THE GATE...?
BOSS.
RIGHT... WE CAN'T GIVE UP JUST BECAUSE THESE MINIONS ARE SCARY.
THEN WE KEEP GOIN'!

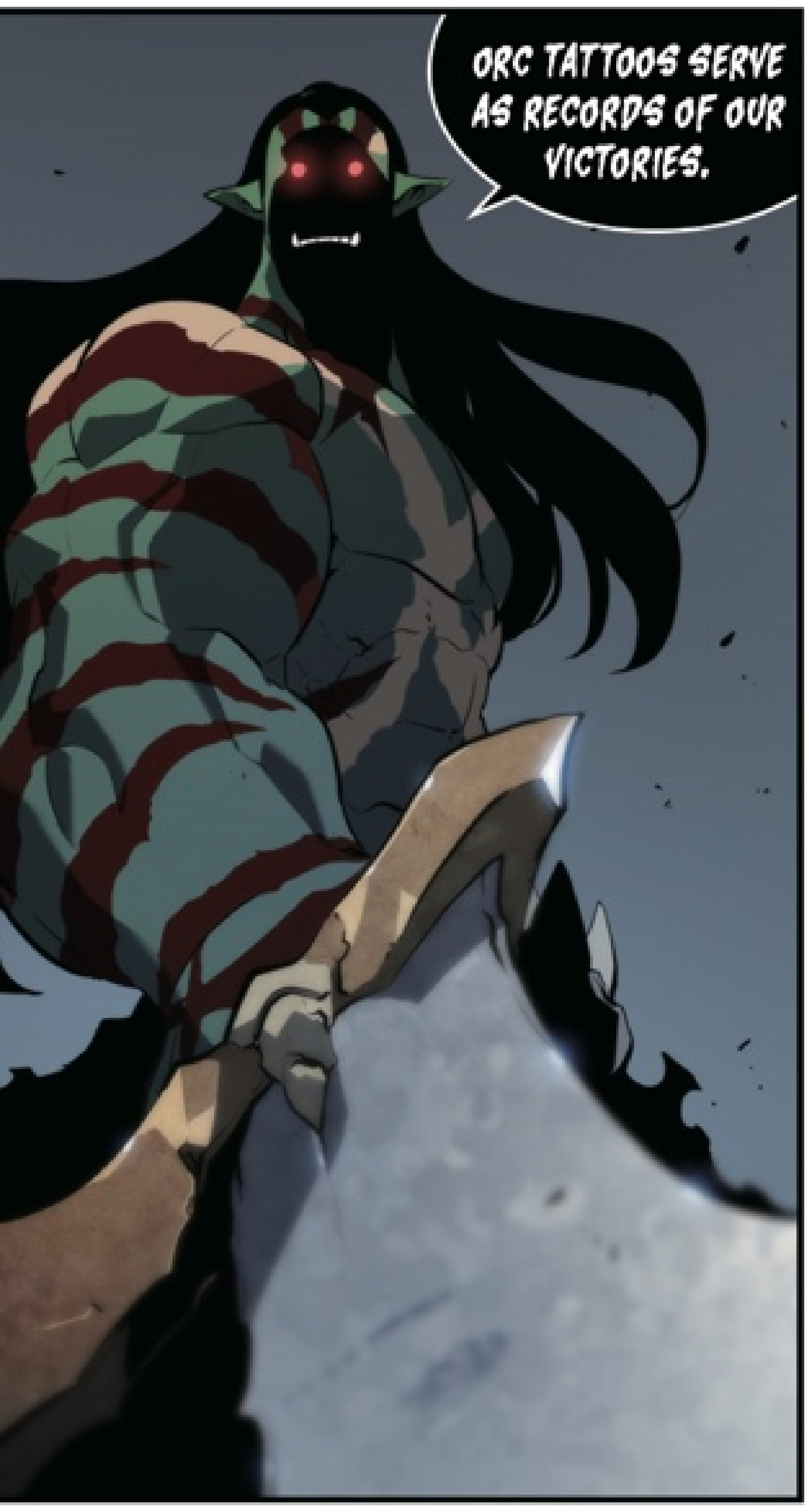
!!
YIKES.
SH-SHALL WE GO, THEN?
......
SH-SHALL WE BE OFF, THEN, SIR?
SMILE
ZOOM

HUH?
TMP
WHAT THE...?!
WHUMP
TOSS

KRAH!
BOSS, ARE YA OKAY?
YOU WANT US TA FOLLOW THOSE GUYS?
F-FINE... I'M FINE.
LOOK AT THIS FIRST.

IS THAT THE HEAD OF A DEATH KNIGHT?
THAT MINION KILLED A TOP-RANK MAGIC BEAST IN NO TIME.
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS THAT POWERFUL...
HAH!
YOU ALL KNOW HOW VALUABLE ESSENCE STONES FROM TOP-RANK MAGIC BEASTS ARE, RIGHT?
ANYONE STILL WANT OUT?
WHAT'RE YA WAITIN' FOR, SIR?
HURRY UP, SIR. YOU'LL GET LEFT BEHIND!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, BOSS!
THESE PEOPLE... HONESTLY!

SHUNK
GROCTAR!
GROCTAR!
GROCTAR!


ORC TATTOOS SERVE AS RECORDS OF OUR VICTORIES.

THEY ARE THE EVIDENCE OF HOW MANY ENEMIES WE'VE KILLED.
YOU HAVE PROBABLY KILLED MANY ENEMIES.
BUT IS THAT REALLY ALL YOU'VE GOT?

WHOOSH
ENTERTAIN ME SOME MORE, O HIGH ORC WARRIORS!

CLANG
BLOCKED MY SWORD. NOT BAD.
CLENCH
BUT THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH!
SLASH

FSHHHH

SHOOM

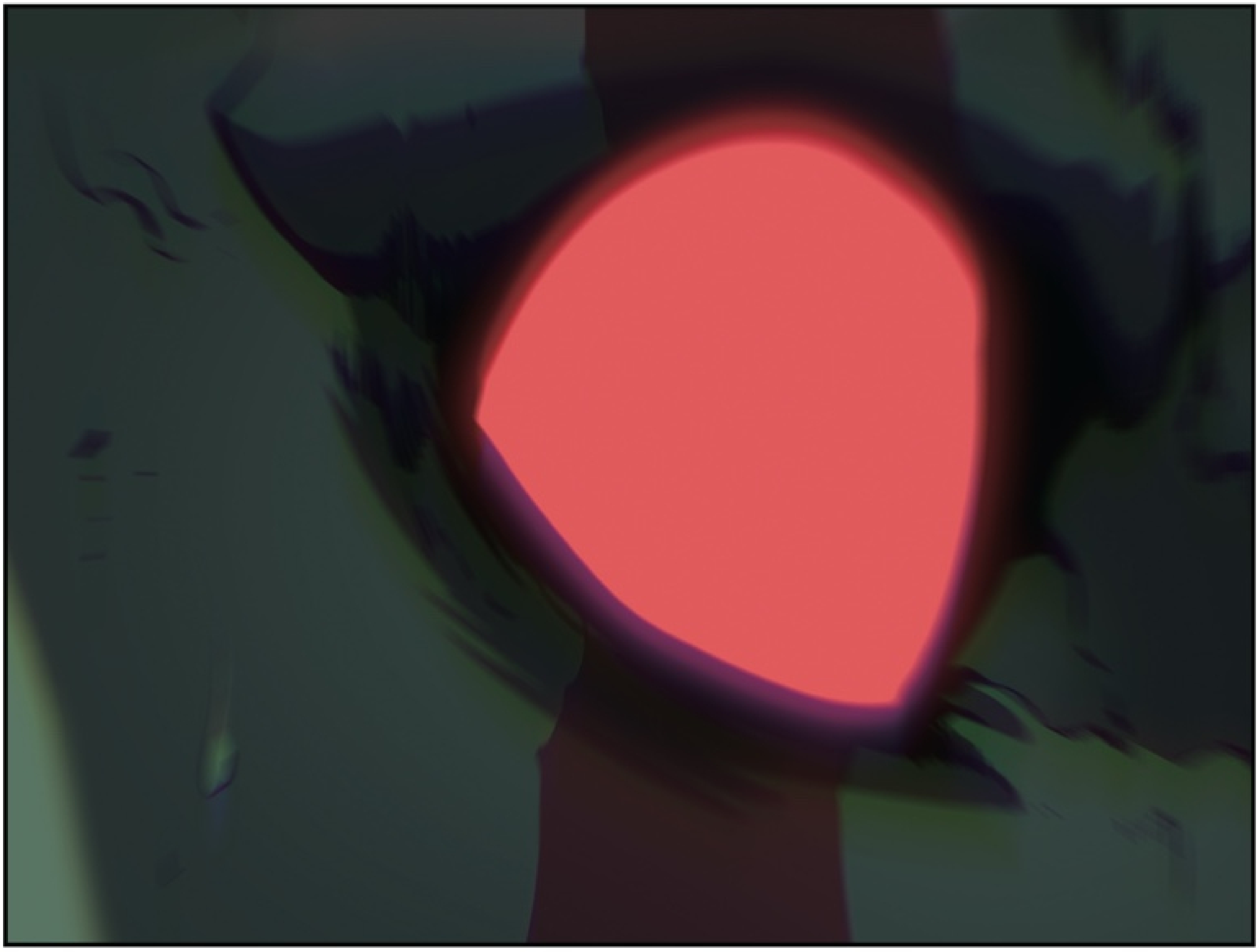
IS THIS A MAGIC SPELL...?
NOTHING HAPPENS NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I CUT THEM.
I CAN KILL THEM A HUNDRED, NO, A THOUSAND TIMES.
HOWEVER...
KILL.
KILL.
KILL.
KILL.
KILL.
KILL ALL HUMANS.
...THE VOICE IN MY HEAD GETS WORSE AS TIME GOES BY. I MUST FINISH THIS!

IF THEY'RE CONTROLLED BY A MAGIC SPELL...
...IT'S OVER ONCE I FINISH THE SPELL CASTER.
IS IT YOU?
THAT GIRL!
KILL HER!
THE HIGH ORCS ARE POWERLESS WHILE REGENERATING!
WHOOSH
KEEP ATTACKING! BLOCK THEM!
THUNK
THUNK

STAB
STAB
SHUNK
JINAH... WATCH OUT!

GRAB
SO IT WAS YOU.
I CAN DEFINITELY SENSE MAGIC POWER FROM YOU.
DIE.

WHOOSH



ZOOOM

DROP
ZOOOOOM
JINAH, ARE YOU OKAY?!
GROOOOOAR!

SOMETHING...
...IS COMING.
SOMETHING POWERFUL...
EVERYONE, MOVE!

KA
BOOM
KOFF!
KOFF!
PAT

IT'S OKAY NOW.
LEAP
DJJJN

FWISH
I AM GROCTAR OF THE RED BLADE TR—
YOU...
SHF

...SHUT UP AND WAIT RIGHT THERE.

IT'S OKAY.
BRO!!
SORRY I'M A LITTLE BIT LATE.
IS EVERYONE OKAY?
YES...!
YES!
YOU TOO, SONGYI?
YES...
THERE'S SOMETHING SCARY ABOUT JINWOO...

BRUSH
IGRIS, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF JINAH.
THE REST OF YOU, TAKE THE OTHER KIDS DOWNSTAIRS.
FALTER

I TOLD YOU TO WAIT.
FLINCH
FLINCH
FSHH
I SEE. THOSE IMMORTALS ARE YOUR SOLDIERS...
WHO ARE YOU? HOW DO YOU SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE?

HE WON'T ANSWER ME.
ATTACK!
RUSH
LEAP
WHOOSH
GRAB

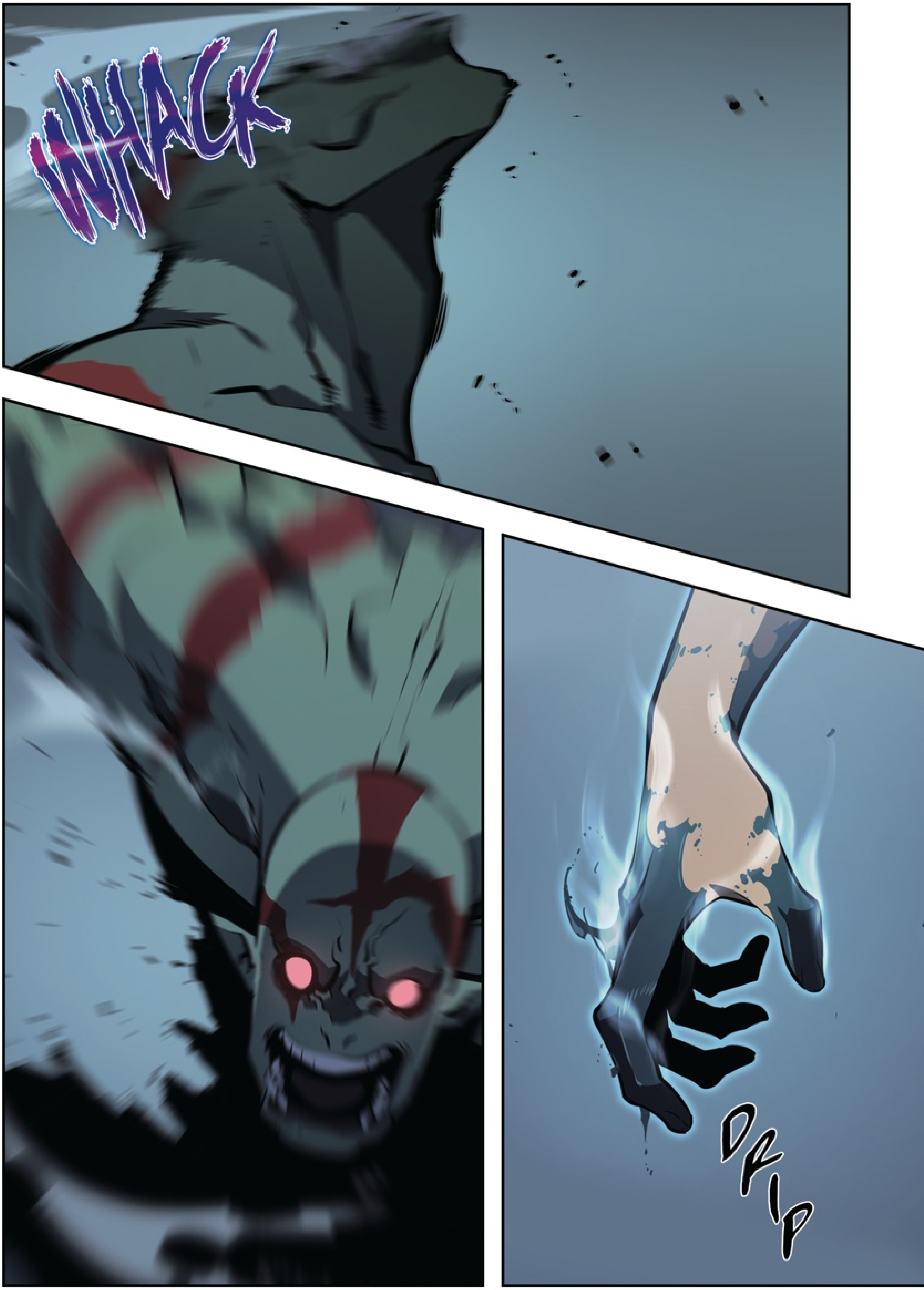
CRUNCH
WHOOSH
RAAGH!!
TWIRL
SLAM

KRAK

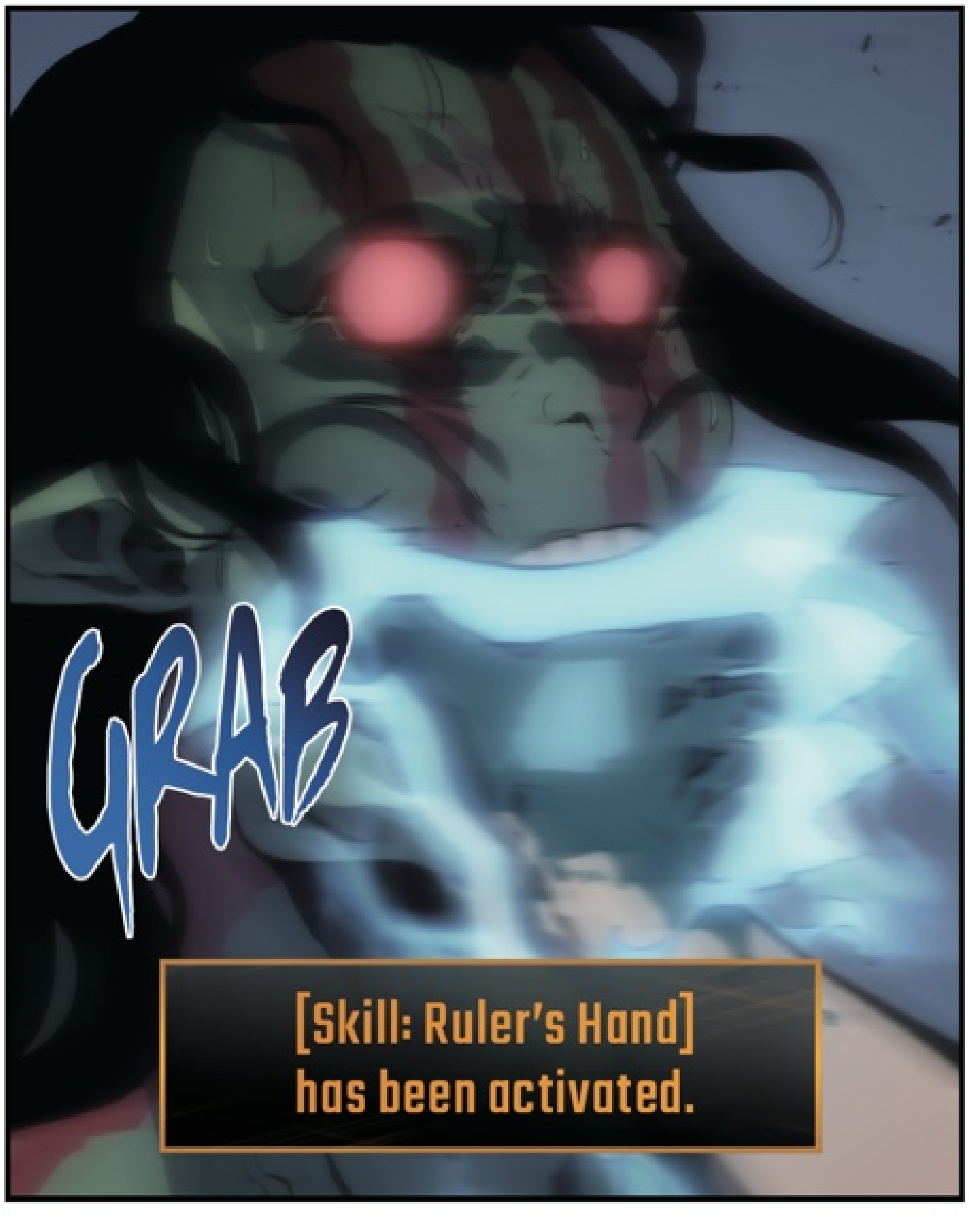
SHF
[Skill: Ruler's Hand]
has been activated.
WHOOM
SQUEEZE
KRAAAK

SLAM
DAAASH
GAAAAH!!
DASH

THWACK
BAM


WHACK
DRIP

WH-WHAT THE...?



GRAB
[Skill: Ruler's Hand] has been activated.

WHAM

GLANCE

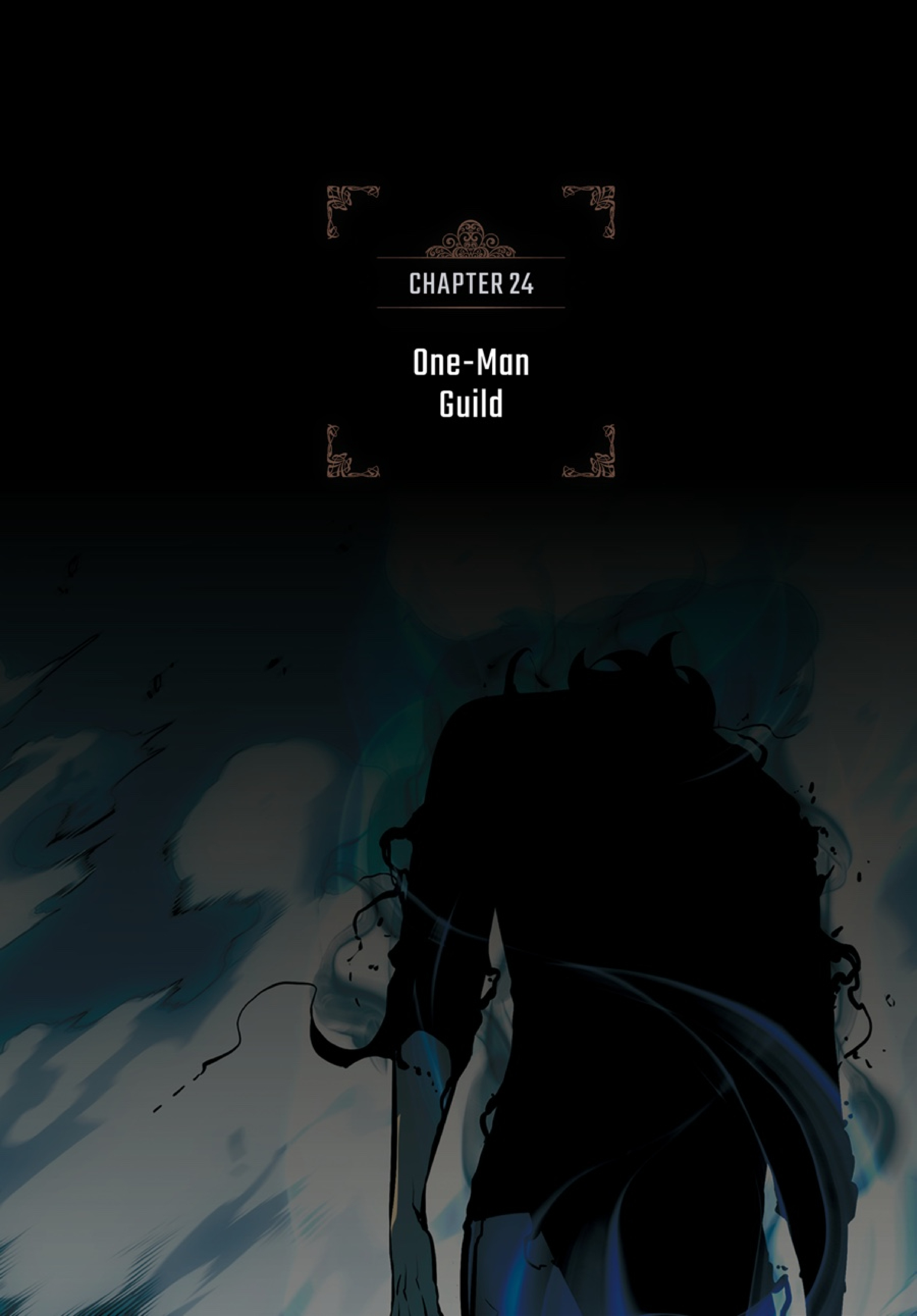
......
WHY?
WHY IS YOUR KIND SO INTENT ON KILLING HUMANS?
A VOICE IN OUR HEADS...
IT TELLS US TO KILL HUMANS...
THEN WHAT ABOUT ME?
DOES THE VOICE TELL YOU TO KILL ME TOO?

P-PLEASE...
...FORGIVE...
ANSWER ME.

DO YOU STILL HEAR THAT VOICE WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME?

FOR...
...GIVE...
I SEE...
THIS CREATURE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME AS A HUMAN EITHER.
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I'LL FORGIVE YOU.
BUT DON'T THINK THE PATH TO FORGIVENESS WILL BE A WALK IN THE PARK.

Solo Leveling


CHAPTER 24
One-Man
Guild

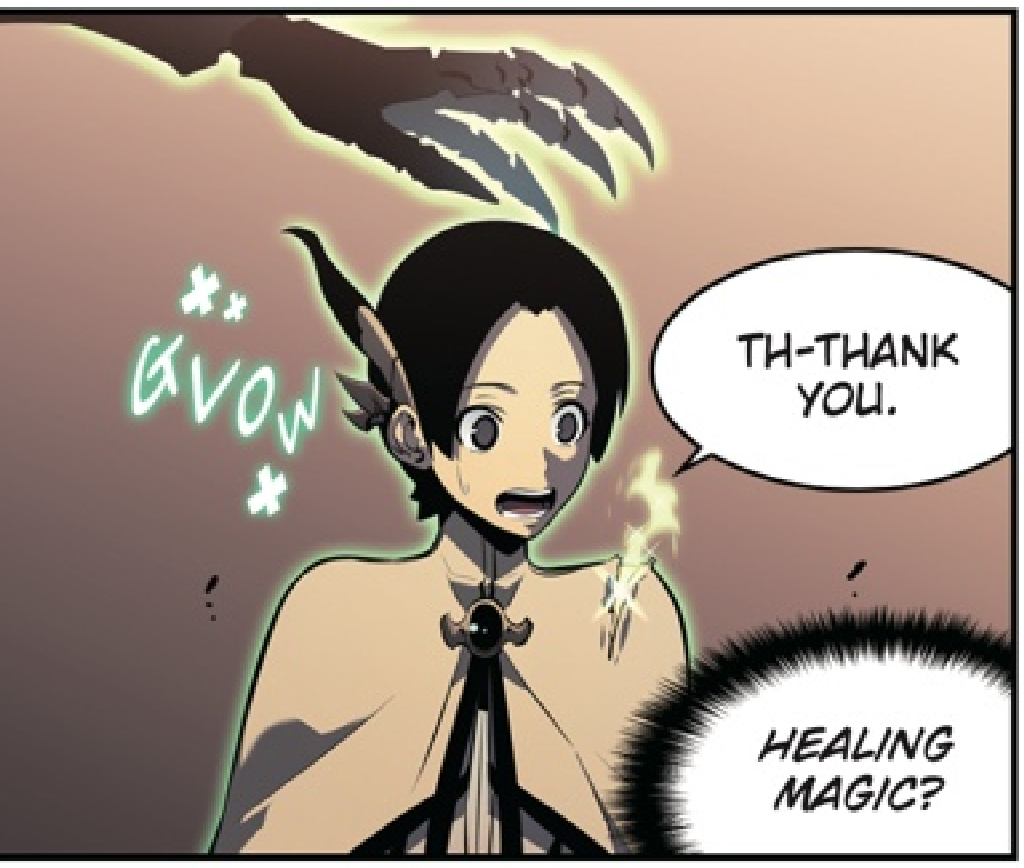
VMMM

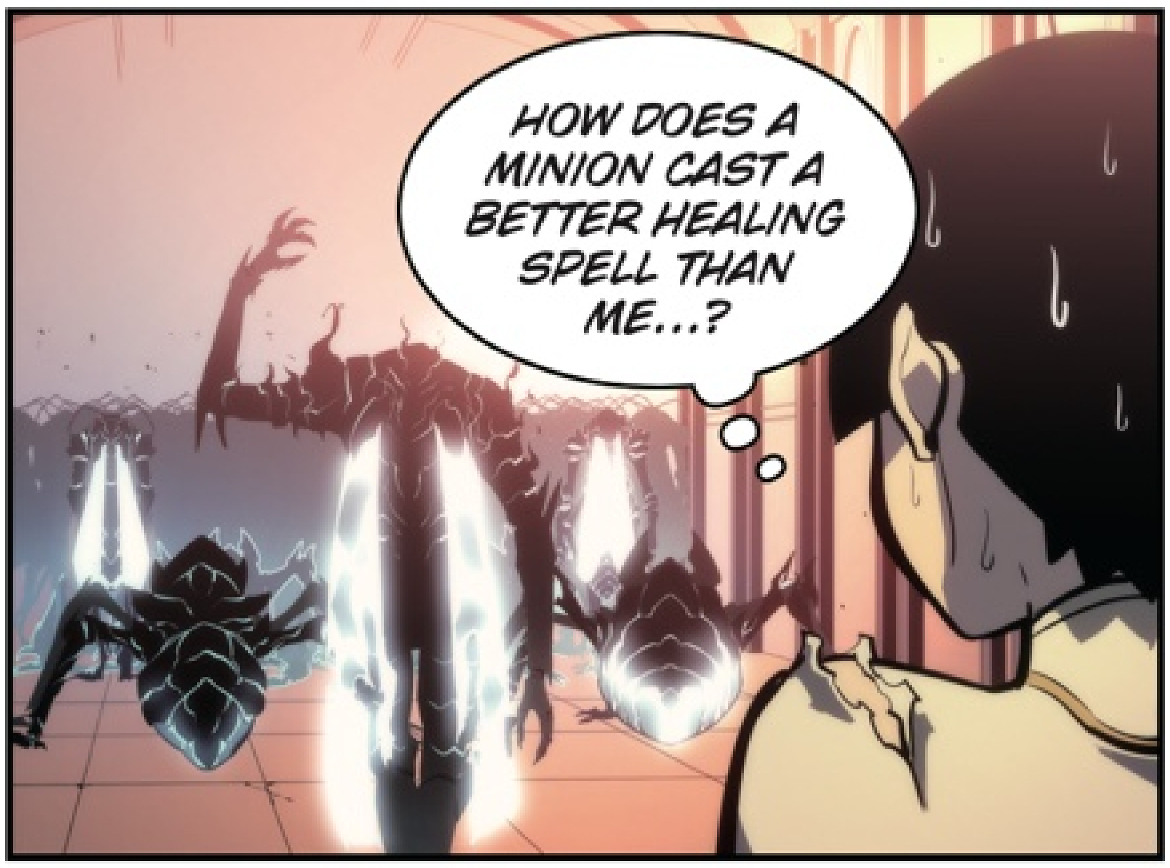
HEY, THAT'S WORTH A FORTUNE!!

A VAMPIRE IS ESPECIALLY VALUABLE!
PULL

OWW!
WHAP
THUD
SKREE!
SKRAAH!

WAVER
WAVER


GVOW
TH-THANK YOU.
HEALING MAGIC?


HOW DOES A MINION CAST A BETTER HEALING SPELL THAN ME...?

CREAK

SHIT! THE BOSS IS AN ARCH LICH! UNBELIEVABLE!
TH-THERE ARE OVER TEN DEATH KNIGHTS TOO!
THE ANNIHILATION OF YELLOW DRAGON GUILD HAS MADE THE ARCH LICH INFAMOUS AMONG BOSS-LEVEL MAGIC BEASTS.
AN ARCH LICH DESTROYED THE LARGE CHINESE GUILD DURING A DUNGEON BREAK.
THE TRAGEDY OF THE INCIDENT WAS ONLY MITIGATED BY ZHIGANG LIU.
EVERYONE IN THIS BUSINESS KNOWS A REGULAR A-RANK STRIKE SQUAD CAN'T HANDLE AN ARCH LICH.
WH-WHAT DO WE DO, BOSS?
MORE MAGIC BEASTS ARE COMIN' FROM BEHIND!
STOMP
STOMP
DAMN IT! THE ONES THE ANTS DIDN'T EAT HAVE REGENERATED. BLOCK THE ENTRANCE!
YES!!

HOLY WALL!
FLASH
STUCK BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE! CAN WE DO THIS WITHOUT HUNTER SUNG?
SIR, IT WON'T LAST EVEN FIVE MINUTES!!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
DAMN IT...

SKRAAAH!

Y-YOU ARE...
...THE SHADOW ARMY!

WHY IS THE KING'S ARMY ATTACKING US?

HEH-HEH.

WE WERE CHOSEN BY THE KING.
YOU WEREN'T.

NONSENSE!
I WILL ASK THE KING MYSELF, SO—

SHP

BAM
YOU TALK TOO MUCH FOR A CORPSE.

THUD

RIIP

N-NOOO!
SMASH
WHISH
FWOOSH

CREAK
IT ONLY TOOK ONE BLOW FOR IT TO DEFEAT THE ARCH LICH...
ALL THE UNDEAD HAVE FALLEN TOO!
SKRAAAH!
I KNEW HE WAS STRONG, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS THIS POWERFUL...

HUNTER SUNG ACTUALLY CAN CLEAR A GATE...
...JUST BY SENDING IN THOSE GUYS, HUH?
HE NEEDS MANA TO SUMMON AND CONTROL THEM, SO HE CAN'T USE THEM ALL AT ONCE...
...BUT IF HE COULD USE EVEN HALF...
...THAT WOULD BE WAY MORE EFFICIENT THAN ANY OF THE TOP GUILDS.
BOSS, I RECOMMEND WE SERIOUSLY CONSIDER JOINING HUNTER SUNG'S GUILD.
SERIOUSLY? THAT'S NOT NICE TO HEAR. CALL IT AN M&A.
"KNIGHTS GUILD MERGES WITH NEW GUILD FOUNDED BY KOREA'S BEST HUNTER."
WOULDN'T THAT BE QUITE THE HEADLINE?

HUH...I WAS JUST JOKING, BUT ARE YOU SERIOUSLY GOIN' TA PUSH FOR IT?
JUDGING JUST BY TODAY...HUNTER SUNG DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE NEEDS US.
COME ON, MAN! DO YOU THINK HUNTER SUNG'S GUILD CAN OPERATE OUTSIDE THE LAW?

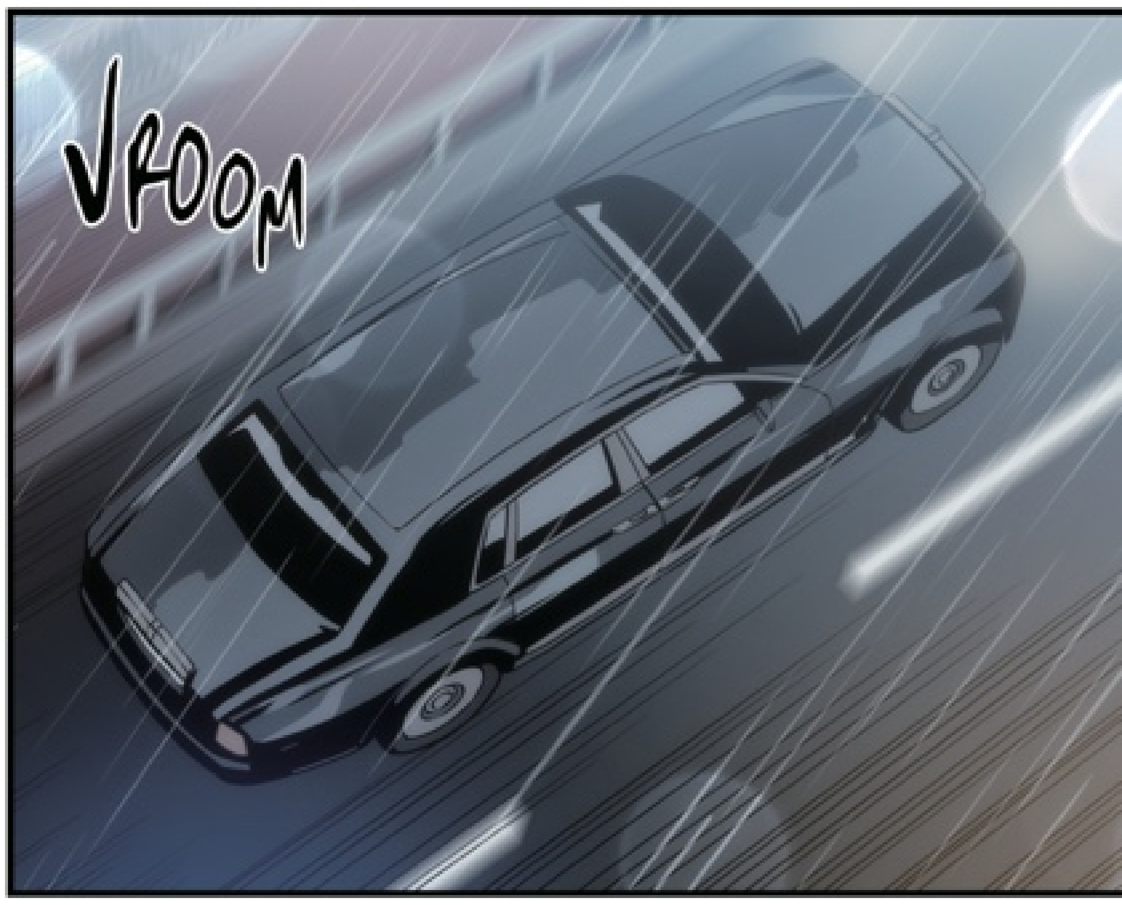
WHUH?

EVEN IF HIS MINIONS CAN CLEAR A DUNGEON FOR HIM, HE STILL HAS TO HAVE THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF STRIKE SQUAD MEMBERS.
HE MUST MEET THE CONDITION.
HOW COULD A HUNTER FORGET THAT?!

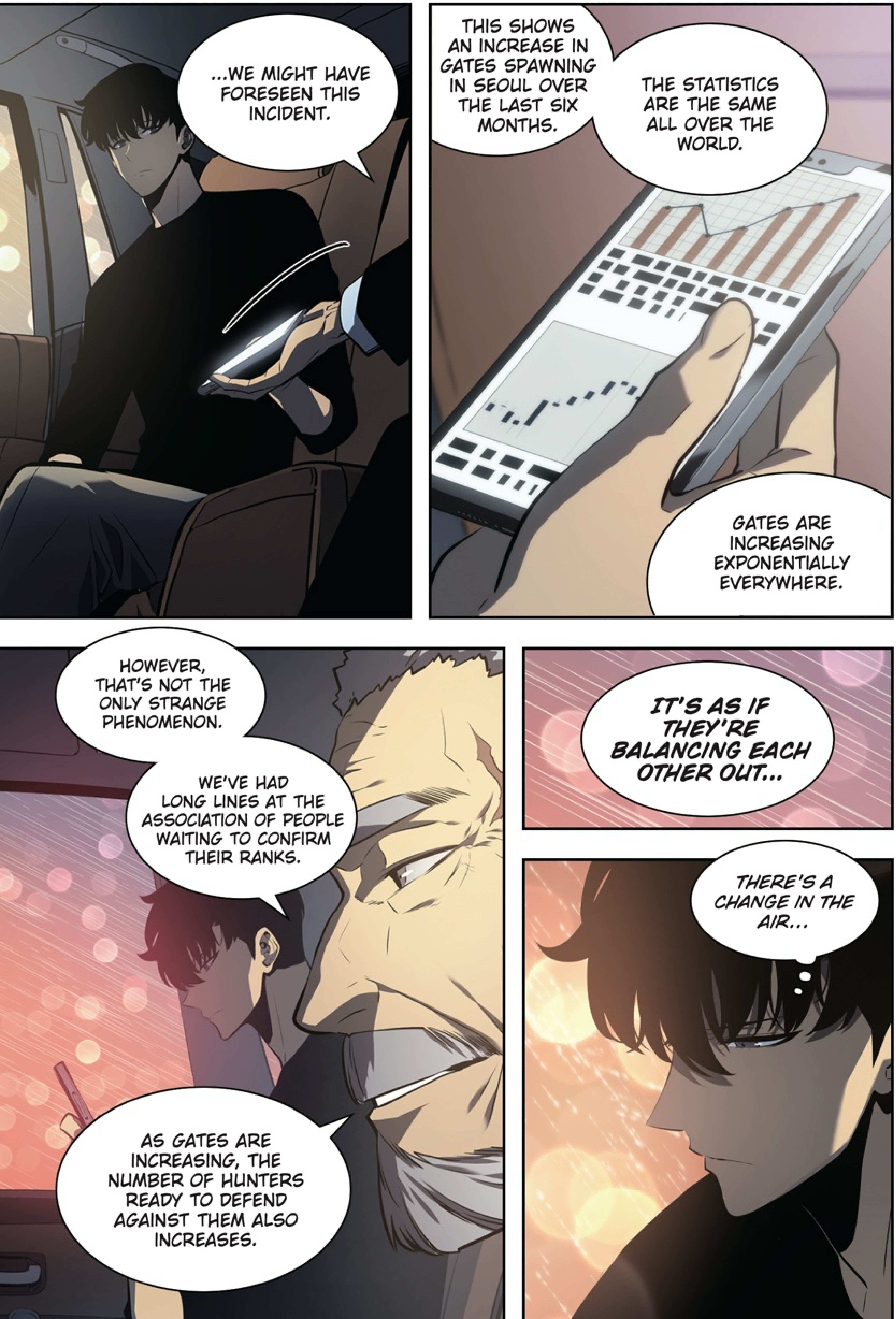
OH. YOU'VE GOT A POINT, BOSS.
WE'D HELP HUNTER SUNG REACH THE MINIMUM HEAD COUNT, AND HE'D BE HELPIN' US OUT! IT WOULD BE A WIN-WIN SITUATION!
THAT'S RIGHT. HA-HA-HA!
BUT WOULDN'T WE BE RIDIN' HUNTER SUNG'S COATTAILS A LITTLE TOO HEAVILY?
HEY, NOW!
LET'S JUST SAY...
...WE'RE GETTIN' IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

FSHHHHH
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
I NEED TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED WITH MY OWN EYES!
MY SON IS IN THERE!!
PLEASE LET ME THROUGH!
ARE THERE ANY OTHER SURVIVORS?
NO, SIR!

FSHHH


VROOM

ALL TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN STUDENTS WHO ESCAPED FROM THE SCHOOL ARE SAFE.
BUT ONLY TEN STUDENTS WERE RESCUED.
EVERY STUDENT WHO FAILED TO ESCAPE WAS......


...WE MIGHT HAVE FORESEEN THIS INCIDENT.
THIS SHOWS AN INCREASE IN GATES SPAWNING IN SEOUL OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS.
THE STATISTICS ARE THE SAME ALL OVER THE WORLD.
GATES ARE INCREASING EXPONENTIALLY EVERYWHERE.
HOWEVER, THAT'S NOT THE ONLY STRANGE PHENOMENON.
WE'VE HAD LONG LINES AT THE ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE WAITING TO CONFIRM THEIR RANKS.
AS GATES ARE INCREASING, THE NUMBER OF HUNTERS READY TO DEFEND AGAINST THEM ALSO INCREASES.
IT'S AS IF THEY'RE BALANCING EACH OTHER OUT...
THERE'S A CHANGE IN THE AIR...

SO WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT...?
JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES, CHINA, RUSSIA, FRANCE, ENGLAND, GERMANY, AND EVEN THE MIDDLE EAST...
THESE DOCUMENTS ARE OFFICIAL REQUESTS FROM COUNTRIES THAT WANT TO CONTACT YOU, HUNTER SUNG.
YOU'VE PROBABLY ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED THROUGH UNOFFICIAL CHANNELS AS WELL.
TRUTHFULLY, THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION HAS NO RIGHT TO STOP THEM.
WE'RE JUST PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY AS PER YOUR REQUEST.

THE DECISION IS YOURS, BUT...
...I KNOW KOREA WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY FILLING YOUR ABSENCE IF YOU DO DECIDE TO LEAVE.

...WE'VE ARRIVED. YOUR SISTER HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO THIS HOSPITAL.

HUNTER JINWOO SUNG.

WE WILL PROVIDE EVERYTHING YOU NEED THAT'S WITHIN OUR MEANS.
SO WILL YOU PLEASE STAY IN KOREA?
ON THE RECORD, THERE ARE TEN S-RANK HUNTERS IN KOREA INCLUDING YOU...
WE'VE LOST THREE OF THEM.
TWO FELL TO MAGIC BEASTS, AND ONE DEFECTED TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE ASSOCIATION CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE ANOTHER.
WE WON'T BE DOING OUR JOB IF WE DON'T DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER.
PLEASE, ASK ME FOR ANYTHING, HUNTER SUNG.

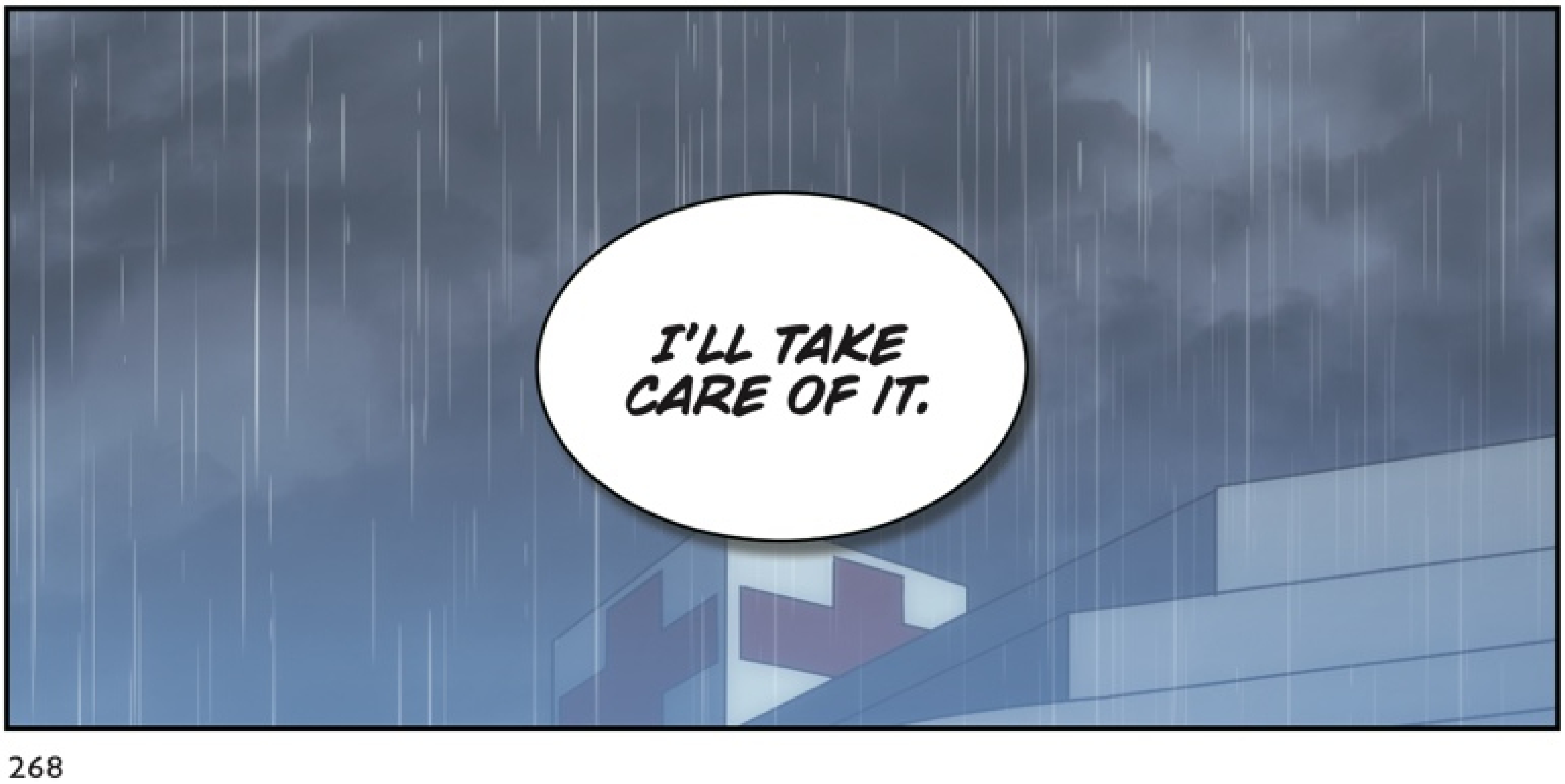
......
THEN...

...CAN YOU MAKE IT SO I CAN ENTER A HIGH-RANK GATE ON MY OWN?

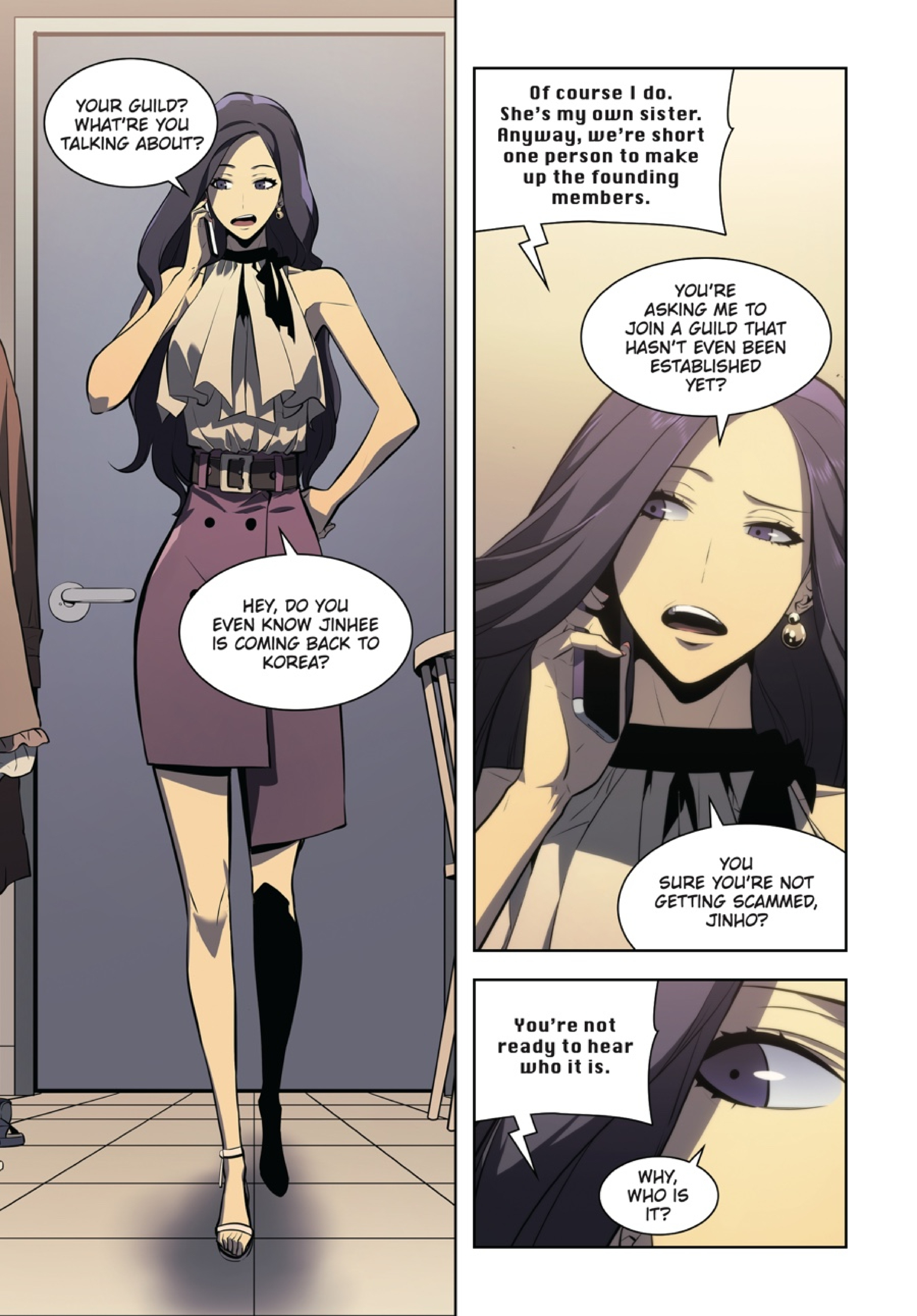
YOU WANT US TO GET RID OF THE MINIMUM HUNTER REQUIREMENT FOR A RAID?
YES.
THE MINIMUM QUOTA OF HUNTERS FOR A RAID IS A STANDARD SAFETY PROTOCOL.
THE POLICY IS MEANT TO PREVENT HUNTERS FROM ENTERING DUNGEONS WILLY-NILLY AND ENDANGERING THEIR LIVES.
AND YOU'RE ASKING ME TO GET RID OF IT...
THE REASON YOU FORMED A GUILD IS—
YES.
FREEZE

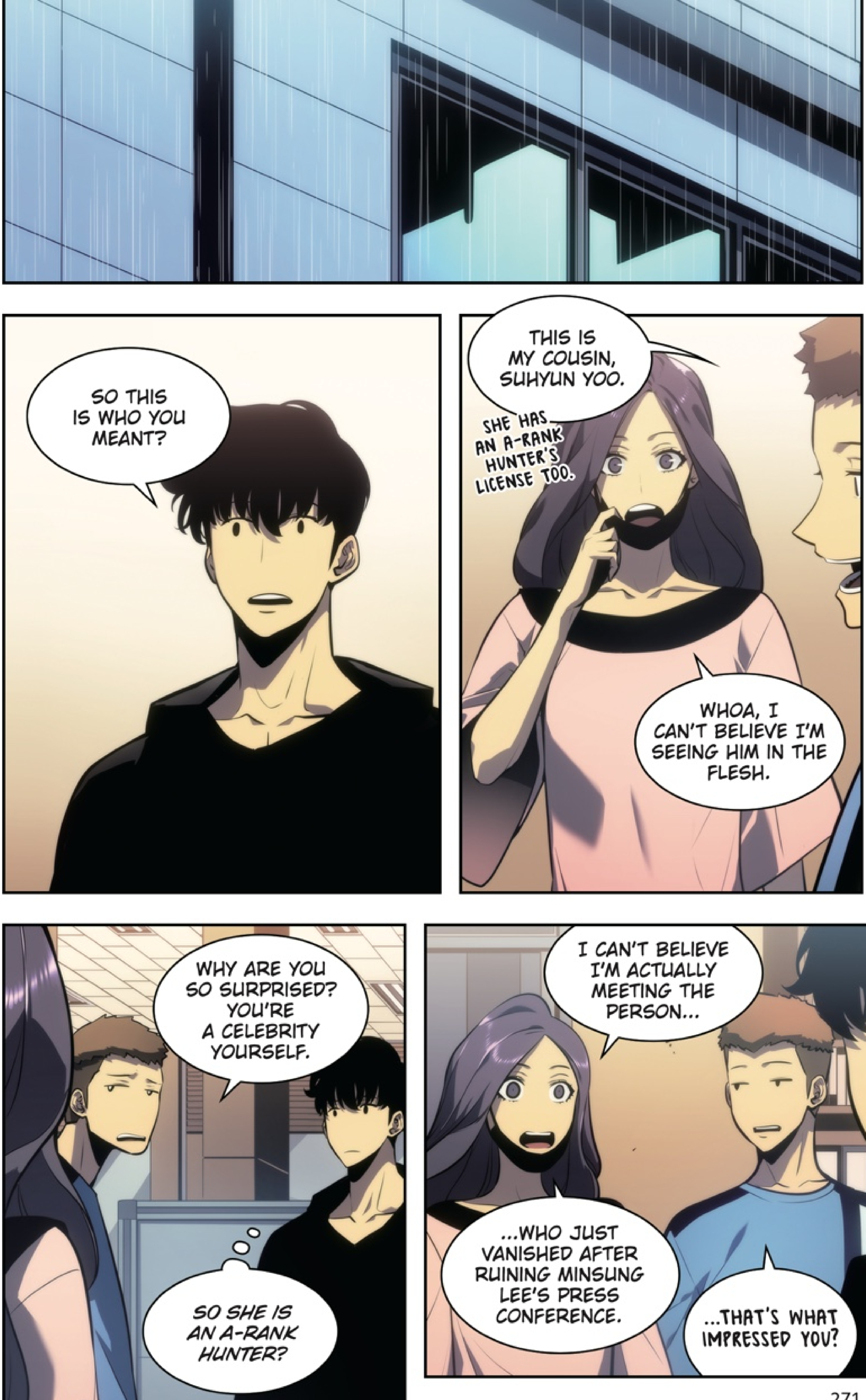
AM I ASKING THE IMPOSSIBLE?

A ONE-MAN SQUAD...!
IT WILL BE DIFFICULT BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE.


I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

GOOD JOB, SUHYUN.
VRR
VRR
THANK YOU, SIR.
HEY, COUS.
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR GUILD?
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO SIMPLY ADD YOUR NAME TO OUR GUILD...
...AND HAVE THE FREEDOM TO DO WHATEVER INSTEAD OF BEING DRAGGED INTO MY FATHER'S GUILD TO WORK AS SOME KIND OF MASCOT?


YOUR GUILD? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HEY, DO YOU EVEN KNOW JINHEE IS COMING BACK TO KOREA?
Of course I do. She's my own sister. Anyway, we're short one person to make up the founding members.
YOU'RE ASKING ME TO JOIN A GUILD THAT HASN'T EVEN BEEN ESTABLISHED YET?
YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT GETTING SCAMMED, JINHO?
You're not ready to hear who it is.
WHY, WHO IS IT?


SO THIS IS WHO YOU MEANT?
THIS IS MY COUSIN, SUHYUN YOO.
SHE HAS AN A-RANK HUNTER'S LICENSE TOO.
WHOA, I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SEEING HIM IN THE FLESH.
WHY ARE YOU SO SURPRISED? YOU'RE A CELEBRITY YOURSELF.
SO SHE IS AN A-RANK HUNTER?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY MEETING THE PERSON...
...WHO JUST VANISHED AFTER RUINING MINSUNG LEE'S PRESS CONFERENCE.
...THAT'S WHAT IMPRESSED YOU?

JINHO IS A D-RANK, AND HIS COUSIN IS AN A-RANK.
DOES BLOOD HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH AWAKENED BEINGS?
WELL, THERE WERE BROTHERS WHO BOTH BECAME AWAKENED BEINGS, AND MY FATHER WAS A HUNTER TOO, SO...
JINHO'S FILLED YOU IN?
YES, YOU NEED A FOUNDING MEMBER...
JOINING OUR GUILD COULD PUT YOU IN HOT WATER. ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
IT'S MUCH MORE PREFERABLE THAN HAVING TO DEAL WITH JINSUNG YOO.
JINSUNG YOO?
SHE MEANS MY OLDER BROTHER, BOSS.
AH, THE MEAN BROTHER?
HIS REPUTATION PRECEDES HIM.

UH...

CAN YOU TAKE A SELFIE WITH ME FOR MY SOCIALS?

THAT'S ABSURD!!
YOU WANT MINIONS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS MEMBERS OF STRIKE SQUADS?
DO YOU HEAR YOURSELF?
THIS RIDICULOUS POLICY WAS DRAWN UP AS SOON AS HUNTER JINWOO SUNG FORMED A GUILD.
IF THAT ISN'T PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, THEN WHAT IS?
THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION IS SUPPOSED TO BE UNBIASED, BUT THEY ARE ACTING IN HUNTER SUNG'S INTERESTS.
PLEASE SAY SOMETHING, PRESIDENT GO!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

IT IS INDEED A SPECIAL FAVOR.

I WILL ASK EVERYONE ONE SIMPLE QUESTION.
MURMUR
MURMUR
A STRIKE SQUAD CONSISTING OF TWENTY A-RANK HUNTERS VERSUS...
...A STRIKE SQUAD WITH ONLY HUNTER SUNG.

IF YOU HAD TO PICK BETWEEN THOSE TWO DURING A DUNGEON BREAK...
...WHICH ONE WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

CONGRESSMAN NAM, YOU RECENTLY MOVED TO A CONDOMINIUM NEAR THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE HUNTERS GUILD, DID YOU NOT?
WHY DID YOU MOVE THERE DESPITE IT BEING MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE THAN THE OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE AREA?
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH TH—
AHEM...
AHEM-HEM...
YOU WANT TO BE SAFE, RIGHT?
OTHER PEOPLE WANT THE SAME.
THOSE WITH MONEY WANT TO MOVE TO SAFER AREAS.
NUMEROUS GUILDS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES ARE DYING TO RECRUIT HUNTER SUNG.
AT THIS RATE, DO YOU THINK HUNTER SUNG WOULD WANT TO STAY IN KOREA?
I'M ASKING YOU IF YOU WISH FOR A REPEAT OF THE DONGSOO HWANG AFFAIR.
AS YOU CONSIDER THIS SMALL CONCESSION...
...I HOPE YOU ALL THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT...

...JUST WHO IS GOING TO KEEP YOU SAFE WHEN ANOTHER S-RANK GATE APPEARS IN YOUR BACKYARD.
cuhhh_cee
211,723 likes
cuhhh_cee Ahjin Guild, day 1
#ahjinguild #jinwoosung
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
BAM

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW BIG THIS GATE IS...!
BOSS...
...I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
JINHO WOULD'VE GONE NUTS IF HE'D SEEN THE GATE AT GWANGALLI BEACH.
LET'S GO.
HUNTER SUNG, PLEASE LOOK THIS WAY!

KA-SHAK
KA-SHAK
KA-SHAK
COULD YOU PLEASE TELL US HOW YOU FEEL AS YOU EMBARK ON AHJIN GUILD'S FIRST RAID?
WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE NAME "AHJIN"?
WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SUHYUN YOO, THE THIRD FOUNDING MEMBER?!
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
HUNTER SUNG.
MANAGER WOO. I THOUGHT MY INFORMATION WAS SUPPOSED TO BE CLASSIFIED?
WE CAN PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION, BUT WE CAN'T HIDE THE LOCATION OF A GATE.
YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT'S UPLOADED ON SOCIAL MEDIA AS WELL.
BECAUSE OF THAT PICTURE SHE POSTED...
AH... I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL.

BOSS, ARE YOU SURE WE'LL BE OKAY WITHOUT A COLLECTION TEAM OR AN EXCAVATION TEAM?
IT WON'T BE EASY FOR ME TO HANDLE IT ALL...
VWOOM
WE'LL BE FINE. THESE SHADOWS WILL TAKE CARE OF IT.
WHOA... ALL HIS MINIONS ARE AT LEAST B-RANK IF NOT A!
HUNTER SUNG AND HIS SOLDIERS EASILY PASS THE SAFETY CONDITIONS FOR AN A-RANK PERMIT.
PEOPLE WHO ARGUE WHETHER THIS IS PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR HUNTER SUNG DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.
THE CHECK-UP IS DONE.

HOW-EVER...
SHF
AH.
OHHH!
PRESIDENT GO HAS ASKED ME TO MONITOR YOUR RAID...
...TO MAKE SURE IT'S TRULY SAFE, HUNTER SUNG.
KLAK
ARE YOU OKAY WITH ME ACCOMPANYING YOU TODAY AS AN AGENT OF THE SURVEIL-LANCE TEAM?
ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY YOURSELF, MANAGER WOO?

PARDON?
A LITTLE LATER...
NAGA, AN A-RANK MAGIC BEAST.
SHH
UMK
STAB

KA-
POW
CRUNCH
CHOMP
SLASH
SHUNK

EVEN HIGHLY-EXPERIENCED HUNTERS FIND NAGAS A CHALLENGE BECAUSE THEY'RE SKILLED IN BOTH MAGIC AND PHYSICAL COMBAT.
THEY ARE NO MATCH FOR THE IMMORTAL ARMY WITH SO MANY MINIONS ATTACKING THEM.
ESPECIALLY THAT MINION...

ZZZZZZT
ONLY TOP-NOTCH MAGE HUNTERS CAN HANDLE LIGHTNING MAGIC, BUT...
...LIGHTNING STRIKES EVERY TIME THAT MINION SWINGS HIS SWORD.
KRA-KOOOOM

SLASH

KRA-
KO
OO
O
OM

A-RANK? NO, THAT MINION IS BEYOND A-RANK.

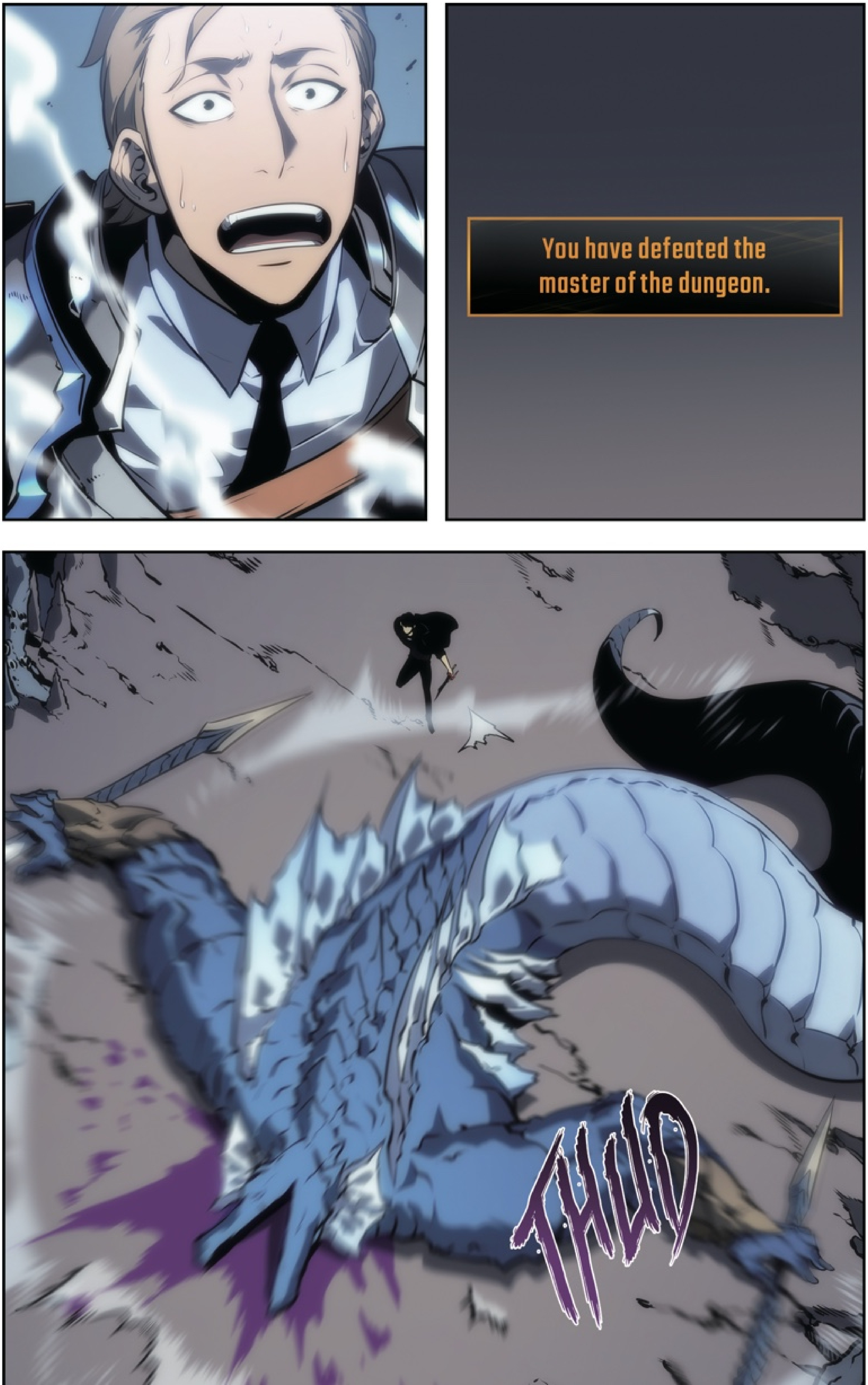
I DOUBT I COULD DEFEAT HIM IN ONE-ON-ONE COMBAT...

MUNCH
MUNCH
HEY, I TOLD YOU NOT TO EAT THAT.
ANY IDEA HOW MUCH A MAGIC BEAST'S CORPSE IS WORTH? HOW COULD YOU EAT THAT?
WHACK
AND YOU GUYS!
NO SLACKING EXCAVATING ESSENCE STONES!
TUMBLE
CLANG CLANG
JINWOO CAN ATTACK A DUNGEON, COLLECT THE DEAD BODIES OF BEASTS, AND EXCAVATE GEMS.
HE'S MORE THAN JUST A ONE-MAN STRIKE SQUAD.
I UNDERSTAND WHY PRESIDENT GO ASKED ME TO OBSERVE THIS.

DISMISS EVERYONE EXCEPT THE WORKER ANTS.
!
FWOOSH
WHY DID YOU CALL BACK THE REST OF THE SOLDIERS?
I THINK YOUR MINIONS CAN HANDLE THE BOSS.

IF I RELY ON THE MINIONS TOO MUCH...
ZZZ
ZZZT
...I'LL LOSE MY TOUCH.
TMP

WH
TMP
TMP
TMP
AM
SLASH
WHOOSH

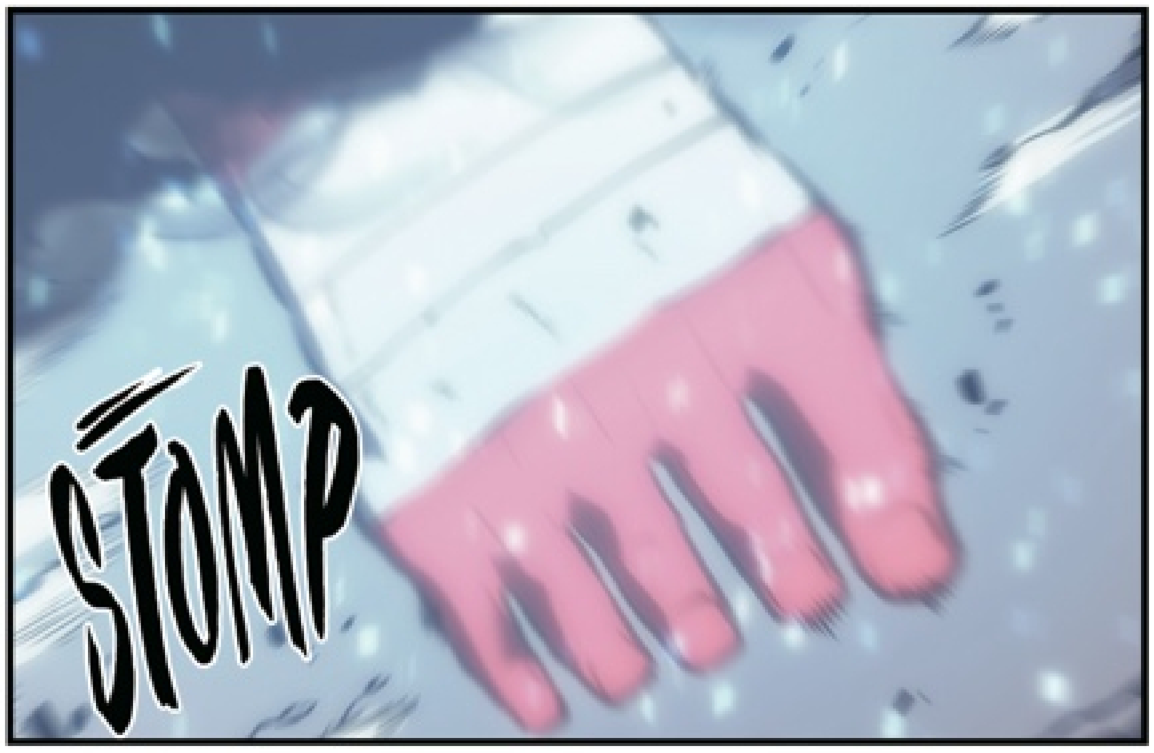

You have defeated the master of the dungeon.
THUD

You have leveled up!
You have reached level 101.
Your job-exclusive skills have leveled up.
OH.
[Skill: Shadow Extraction] has leveled up.
[Skill: Shadow Storage] has leveled up.
[Skill: Monarch's Domain] has leveled up.
[Skill: Shadow Exchange] has leveled up.
I CAN'T BELIEVE ALL THE JOB-EXCLUSIVE SKILLS HAVE LEVELED UP AT ONCE.
THANKS TO THAT, THE WAITING PERIOD FOR THE SHADOW EXCHANGE IS REDUCED BY AN HOUR.
[Job-Exclusive Skills]
Active skills: Shadow Extraction Lv.2, Shadow Storage Lv.2, Monarch's Dominion Lv.2, Shadow Exchange Lv.2
SKILL
[Skill: Shadow Exchange Lv. 2]
Job-exclusive skill.
No mana required.
The caster may switch locations with a designated shadow soldier.
Once used, you may activate it again only after a two-hour cooldown period. Wait times can vary depending on skill level.
ONE LEVEL SHAVED OFF ONE HOUR...THEN, IF THE SKILL GOES UP YET ANOTHER LEVEL...
...MOM AND JINAH WOULD BE SAFE NO MATTER WHERE I AM...

WELL-KNOWN FOR THEIR DURABILITY, NAGA SCALES ARE USED TO CRAFT DEFENSIVE GEAR SUCH AS ARMOR AND SHIELDS.
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE HUNTER SUNG FINISHED IT WITH ONLY TWO DAGGERS...
!
ARISE.
The Voice of the Monarch has awakened the dead's fighting sprit.
Shadow Enhancement successful!
The shadow will start with a base level of 13.
SHWOOM
HIS RANK IS THE SAME AS FANG...BUT HE'S LEVEL 13? HE'S ABOUT AS STRONG AS HE WAS WHEN HE WAS ALIVE.
BUT...

[?? Lv.13] Elite Knight Rank
...HE GOT SO MUCH SMALLER...
NORMALLY, SHADOW SOLDIERS ARE AS BIG AS OR A LITTLE BIGGER THAN WHEN THEY WERE ALIVE.
YET I CAN SENSE SO MUCH MAGIC POWER FROM HIM.
HIS MAGIC LEVEL IS AS HIGH AS FANG.
IF HE CAN GET BIGGER WITH MAGIC POWER JUST LIKE FANG, MAYBE THIS IS HIS ORIGINAL FORM.
ANYWAY, HE'S A GREAT ADDITION.
Please choose a name.
HMM...
JIMA, LET'S NAME HIM JIMA.

Would you like to use Jima?
YES.
I CAN'T BELIEVE BOSS CAN ACTUALLY TURN A MONSTER THAT POWERFUL INTO HIS MINION...
HE'S SO AMAZING!
RUMBLE
AH!
WE HAVE TO LEAVE, BOSS.
RIGHT.
WELL, THEN, THE DEAD BODY IS...


STOMP

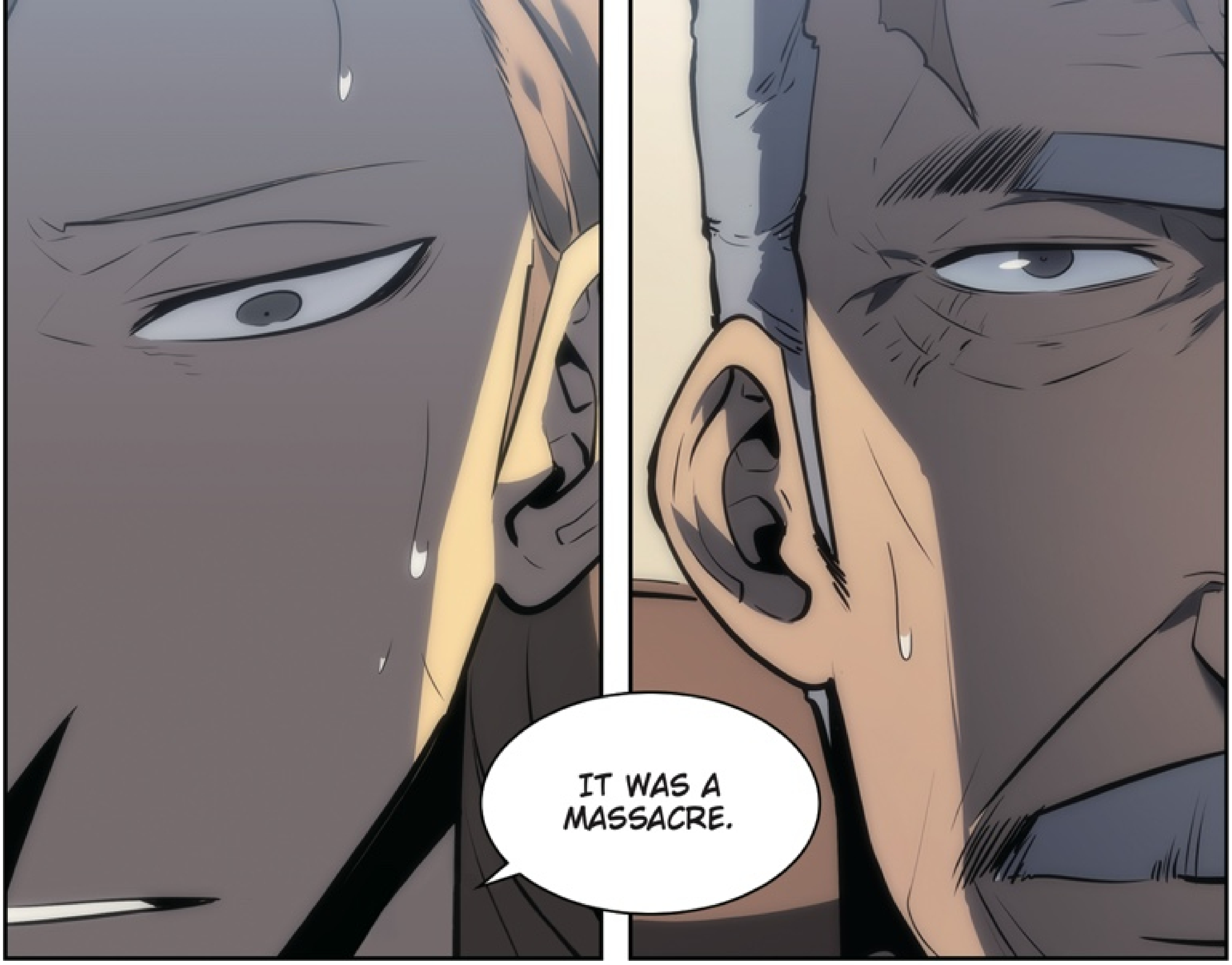
R-RUN!
NO, THAT'S HUNTER JINWOO SUNG'S MINION!
KA-SHAK
DID HE ALREADY CLEAR AN A-RANK GATE?!
KA-SHAK

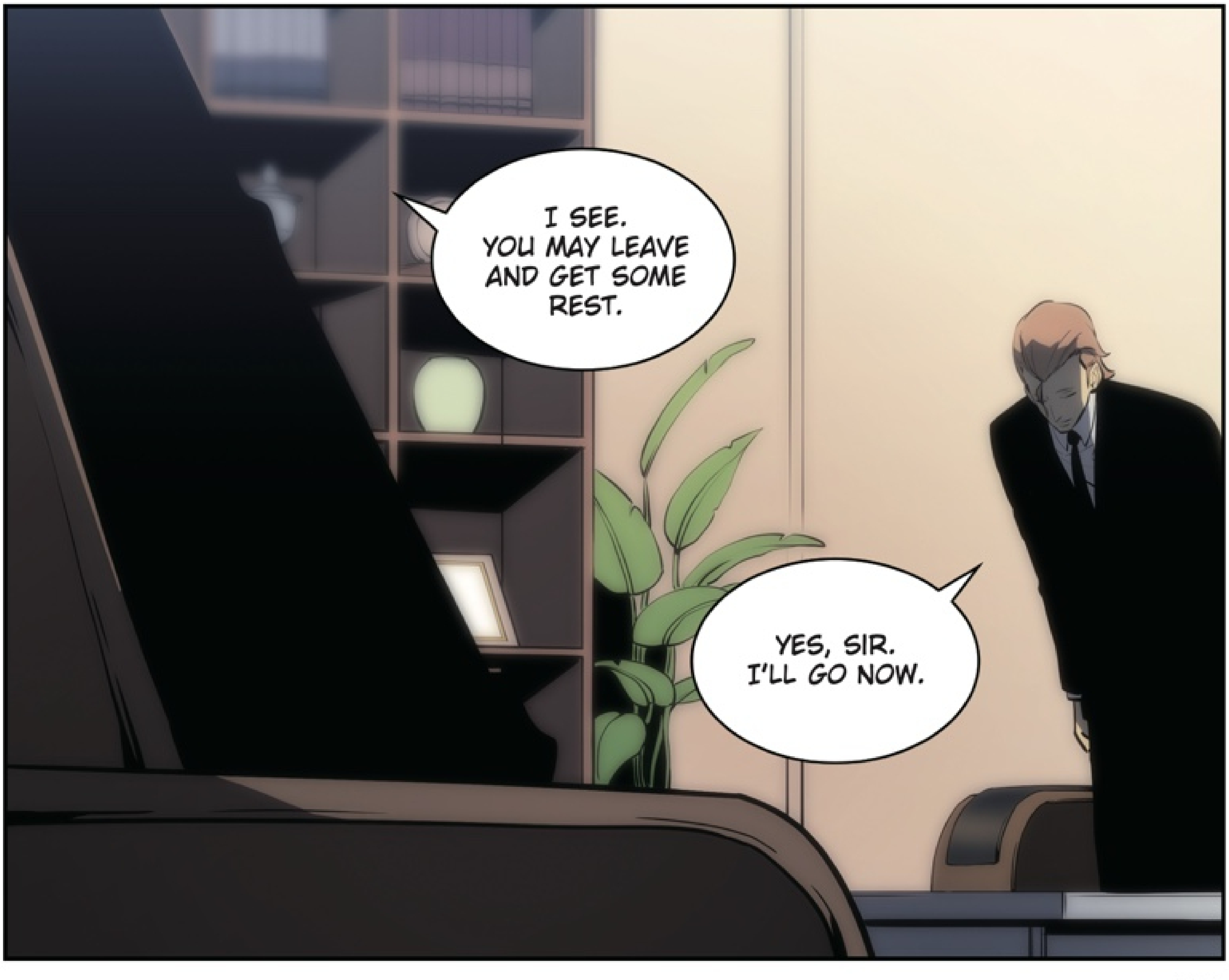
HURRY, TAKE PICTURES!!
KA-SHK-SHK-SHK
KA-SHK-SHK-SHK
KA-SHK-SHK-SHK
BLUSH
LOOK OVER HERE, PLEASE!
BOSS, THERE ARE MORE REPORTERS THAN BEFORE.
LOOKS LIKE IT.
A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN OUR FIRST RAID.
IT'S UNNECESSARY, THOUGH.
THAT'S ALL, SIR.
GAUNT

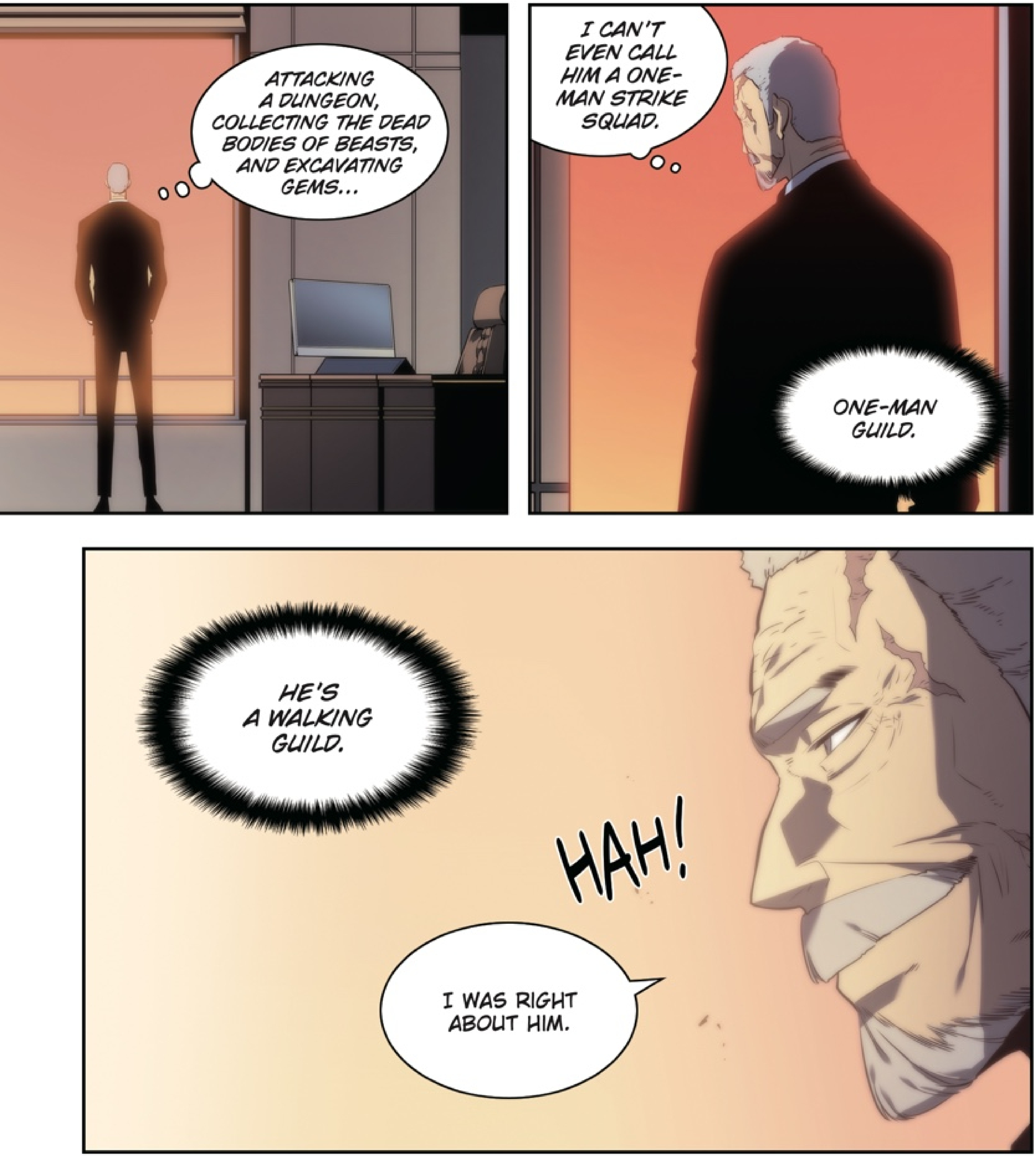
WHOA...

MANAGER WOO, YOU'VE WITNESSED SO MANY RAIDS, BUT...
...AFTER HEARING WHAT HAPPENED AT HUNTER SUNG'S RAID, I UNDERSTAND WHY EVEN A VETERAN LIKE YOU IS ASTONISHED.

THAT... WASN'T A RAID.


IT WAS A MASSACRE.


I SEE. YOU MAY LEAVE AND GET SOME REST.
YES, SIR. I'LL GO NOW.



HE'S CHANGING THE FACE OF KOREA'S—NO, THE WORLD'S HUNTERS.

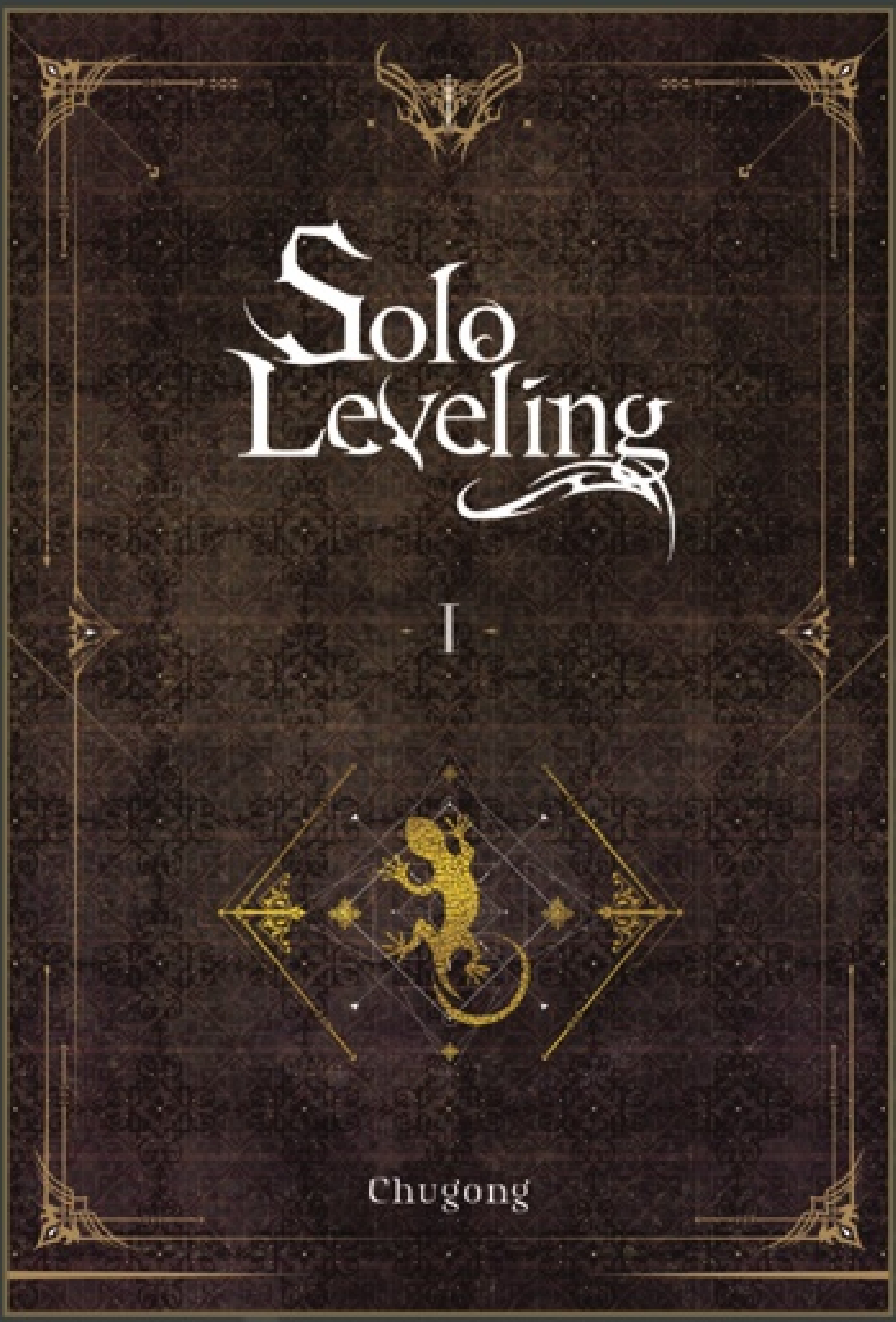
SHINJUKU, TOKYO, JAPAN
<What's that...?>
<No way...>
THE THING THAT QUIETLY APPEARED...
...ABOVE THE STREETS WITH CARS, BICYCLES, AND PEOPLE...

WHOOOOOOM
...COULD BE
CALLED MONSTROUS
IN SIZE ALONE.

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 9...

VOLUME 9 PREVIEW
BYUNGGU MIN'S SIGNIFICANT WARNING!
PLEASE TELL HIM THAT HE NEEDS TO BE CAREFUL.
HUNTER SUNG, PLEASE REMEMBER...
...THAT YOUR REAL ARMY IS...
IT ALL STARTED HERE.
I...
...CAME BACK.
CARTENON TEMPLE FINALLY APPEARS!
YOU'VE FINALLY COME.
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO SUMMONED ME HERE?
Solo Leveling
VOL. 9 COMING SOON!

Read the novel where it all began!



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Solo Leveling

E-rank hunter Jinwoo Sung has no money, no talent, and no prospects to speak of—and apparently, no luck, either! When he enters a hidden double dungeon one fateful day, he's abandoned by his party and left to die at the hands of some of the most horrific monsters he's ever encountered. But just before the last, fatal blow…

PING!

[Congratulations on becoming a Player.]

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Translation: Hye Young Im ◆ Rewrite: J. Torres ◆ Lettering: Abigail Blackman

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First published in Korea in 2018 by D&C WEBTOON Biz Co., Ltd.

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150 West 30th Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10001

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First Ize Press Edition: January 2024
Edited by Abigail Blackman & Ize Press Editorial: Won Young Seo, JuYoun Lee
Designed by Ize Press Design: Wendy Chan

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2020950228

ISBNs: 979-8-4009-0107-2 (paperback)
979-8-4009-0108-9 (ebook)

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

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Printed in South Korea